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WARREN ISHAM, EDITOR.

NO. 11, NEW SERIES.

We invite attention to the following communication, as it contains a statement of facts, in relation to the subject of which it treats, of much importance. It is from a source entitled to the highest consideration:

For the Michigan Farmer.

SOWING CORN FOR FODDER.

MACEDON, N. Y., 3d mo. 21, 1851.

Mr. Editor:

I observe, in a late number of the Michigan Farmer, an inquiry for the best mode of raising corn for fodder, and having tried several different ways, the results may be of benefit to others.

A common, and a very objectionable practice, is to sow broadcast. This requires at least four bushels to the acre, and even with this amount of seed, the growth is not dense enough to keep down the weeds, and as a consequence, the ground is left in a foul condition.

The best way is to sow in drills. First plow and harrow the ground, as if for corn or potatoes; run furrows in one direction, with one horse, about three feet apart; with a hand-basket of corn on the left arm, walk rapidly along side the furrow, strewing the seed with the right hand, at the rate of about fifty grains to the foot, which will be about two bushels and a half to three bushels per acre. A little practice will enable any one to do this evenly and expeditiously. The seed may be covered in the best manner, by means of a one-horse harrow, a one-horse cultivator, or a two-horse harrow, passed lengthwise with the furrows. Two men will thus put in five or six acres in a day.

The only subsequent culture needed, is to pass a one-horse cultivator between the rows, when the corn is about a foot high. No hoeing is required. Its growth will soon cover the whole ground, and all weeds, no matter how thick they may be, will be completely smothered and destroyed; and when, at the close of summer, the crop is removed, the ground will be left as smooth and clean as a floor. No crop have I ever seen equal to this, for reducing grassy, weedy soil, into mellow condition, in a single summer.

If the crop stands erect, it is most conveniently cut with a stiff scythe. A little practice will

enable the workman to throw it all in an even swath, with the heads in one direction, so as to admit of easy binding in bundles. If much thrown down by storms, it must be cut with a corn-cutter. When bound, it is to be put up in large, substantial shocks, to stand several weeks, or till winter, unless the ground is to be sown with wheat, in which case the crop must be drawn off and deposited to dry, elsewhere.

Every beginner spoils his first crop, by its heating in the stack. Even after drying several weeks, there is moisture enough in the stalks to cause violent fermentation. The only mode of preventing this disaster, is either to leave the shocks on the ground till winter, or to build very small stacks, with three rails placed upright together at the centre, for ventilation, and applying plenty of salt.

Fodder thus grown, and well cured and salted, is greatly preferred, by cattle, to hay. A neighbor thinks three tons are as good as four tons of good hay. It should be grown so thick, that the stalks will be quite small; then they will be wholly eaten by cattle, and none lost.

I have tried different quantities of seed per acre, and find that a much less rate than about three bushels, is attended with a diminished crop, although the stalks may be taller. One bushel per acre, will yield but little more than half as much.

I usually obtain, on land that will yield thirty or thirty-five bushels of corn per acre, from four to six tons per acre of dried fodder. Counting all expenses, including interest on fifty dollars per acre for the land, the dried fodder, as an average for five or six years past, has cost me about one dollar and a half per ton. Hay is usually sold here for six or seven dollars a ton, and sometimes for ten. Yet it is astonishing how reluctant our farmers are in adopting the corn fodder cultivation. I hope the farmers of Michigan may set a better example of economy.

The best variety of corn appears to be that which will afford the greatest number of stalks to the quantity of seed sown. Coarse fodder is not as good as fine. A rather moist soil is best, as immense quantities of moisture are thrown off by such a mass of leaves.

Besides the cheapness of this crop, and the great ease of its cultivation, it possesses the fol-

lowing advantages: 1. It may be sown after the hurrying work of spring is accomplished, or at the end of spring, or early in summer. 2. It may be harvested after the wheat and hay crop are secured, or during the comparatively leisure season at the close of summer. 3. Not yielding any grain, it does not exhaust the soil, and is, perhaps, the best crop to precede wheat. 4. It is an admirable crop for smothering and destroying weeds and grass.

A brief glance at the advantages of the general cultivation of this crop, may not be out of place. The value of the annual hay crop in the United States, is about one hundred millions of dollars. Those who have already adopted the corn fodder crop, winter their cattle at less than $\frac{1}{2}$ their former expense. Would it, therefore, be extravagant to believe that $\frac{1}{4}$ of the present expense in the use of hay throughout the country, would be saved by its general use? Yet one quarter is about twenty-five millions of dollars yearly—enough to endow agricultural schools, and build railroads, by the score,—and is well worthy of some exertion for its introduction at large.

T.

For the Michigan Farmer.

SEEDING TO CLOVER—HARROWING AND ROLLING WHEAT.

OLIVET, March 13th.

Mr. Editor:

I will give you an account of some experiments, made during the last year, which you may dispose of as you please.

I had a field of seven acres, which had been cropped, (but not thoroughly,) ever since the first settlement of this place, without ever having been stocked down. This field I wished to seed to clover; I therefore determined to summer-fallow and sow it to wheat. I put on two yoke of cattle, and put the plow down as deeply as possible, and finished it before harvest. During the interval between the first and second plowings, I dragged it several times, and then crossed it, plowing beam deep.

It was sowed to wheat on the 9th and 10th days of September, and got in, in good order. In the spring, I sowed one bushel of pure clover seed, on the seven acres, and as soon as the ground was fairly settled, I went on with the common harrow and harrowed it one way. After the harrow, I followed with a roller, 4 feet long and 4 feet in diameter, constructed of scantling and plank, which is so portable that one man can move it with ease, upon level land. Both before and behind the roller, I made a box, or rack, in which to deposit the cobble stone, with which my land, in some places, is nearly covered. With the help of two men, I could pick up the stone from the strip of land over which I wished the roller to pass the next time, and so, each time around, I removed the stone for the next turn, depositing them at each side of the field, where I wished to build a stone wall.

In this way I proceeded until all was accomplished, save a narrow strip left for the purpose of testing the utility of the course pursued; and you may be assured the face of the field presented a different appearance, after I went on to it with the roller.

My wife, as well as some of my good neighbors, remonstrated against my thus doing violence to the tender plant, which had been struggling for life, exposed to the vicissitudes of a hard winter, alternately frozen and thawed many times, until nearly all signs of life had disappeared.

But the test was yet to come. During all that long drouth, that part of my field upon which I had committed "assault and battery," kept steadily on and attained a good growth of straw, while that which had been left to take care of itself, readily dried up, and much of it was not more than knee high.

But I had the best opportunity to mark the difference, while harvesting. Upon that part which I dragged and rolled, the wheat was spread all over the ground, and every straw seemed to stand upon its own bottom, while that upon the other part stood in clusters, or stools, and yielded only about one-half as much.

I should say, that that part which was seeded to clover, received a coat of plaster, half a bushel to the acre, at the proper time, and the seed took well; while the general complaint, this season, has been, that clover seeding has been nearly a failure.

I am so well satisfied with the result of dragging and rolling, that I intend to pursue the same course this season.

I think such a roller as the one I have described, is much better than the common log roller, as the diameter is much greater in proportion to the weight. It cost about \$7, and a team will draw as many stone upon it as on a cart.

I am well convinced that dragging and rolling wheat, will increase the yield, from three to eight bushels per acre, besides the advantage of having the ground smooth in harvesting. I think, especially when wheat is badly winter-killed, by alternate freezing and thawing, great benefit may be derived by this practice.

Yours, &c.

F. D.

For the Michigan Farmer.

CHARCOAL—QUERY.

Friend Isham:

We are sometimes told of the good qualities of charcoal as a manure, of its absorbing powers, in fixing the gaseous, or volatile parts of manures. I have thought, myself, it might be profitable to the farmer, as an aid in enriching his lands. But being ignorant of its application, the best mode or manner of doing it, I am at a loss.

I have thought, if I had some cheap method for pulverizing it, I would at least make various experiments with it. Could not you, Mr. Editor,

or some of your many readers, give us light on the matter? Have not some of you made experiments? Cannot some of you give some description of a cheap, and economical apparatus for crushing, or pulverizing it? These Queries answered, might benefit many others besides your subscriber.

T. E. WETMORE.

For the Michigan Farmer.

CUTTING HAY.

Mr. Isham.

In reply to Mr. Davis, the milkman, on cutting hay I think that he is on the extreme, both ways. There is a time for all things. What farmer, of any experience, does not know that to let hay stand until the seed, or a good share of it, shells out, it is of little value? But to let the seed get nearly full size,* it will not shell if it is properly taken care of, which is much easier done than when it is in the blow; and if it is a catching time in getting your hay, it does not need near the length of time to dry it, that it does when greener; so you stand a better chance to save your hay from being damaged by storms and bad weather.

He remarks, that he would give from two to four dollars per ton more for hay that was cut two weeks before it was ripe. If he did, the seller would be the loser, as it would shrink all of that difference in weight.

I think, from experience and observation, that the most profitable time to cut hay, is when the seed is full, before it is dried, and then it will not shell, unless it is bleached by dews or rain. I think that a cow will give more milk if you give her what hay she will eat in the greenest state possible; but it will take a great deal more ground to make the same quantity, or keep the same number of head. A team will not work as long, and keep in as good order as on the other.

But let the seed get full, and feed the whole, there is double the virtue in it than when cut green. He says there is but one single argument in favor of the usual practice, and that is, that meadows will hold out longer by letting the grass stand until the seed is ripe, because much of the seed shells, in harvesting, and thus keeps the ground stocked. If he had been a great observer in that respect, he would have found that seed sown or scattered on an old stocked meadow, would have amounted to but little. It comes up, and remains little puny stuff, of but little height, and seldom coming to maturity. But my opinion is, that it hurts the meadow by cutting it too green, because it has a tendency to kill the root. It is evident, to almost every intelligent observer that the pieces that are first mowed where a man has considerable hay to cut, are the first that run out. The same effect follows by pasturing a piece and then turning it into meadow—the tame grass that you sowed runs out, and will not mow near as much, nor of as good quality, as though it had been mowed in its prop-

season. If it has been mowed two or three seasons, it will not do well again for meadow, until plowed up and stocked over.

Yours truly,

H. H. ALLEN.

* That is the very time Davis recommended, all of two weeks being required to ripen the seed fully, after it is formed, so that Mr. D. is not on the extreme you supposed.—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

PLYMOUTH, 3d March, '51.

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 24th ult. was duly received, and I hasten to comply with your request, to give you a description of the composition of the surface and subsoil of my farm.

I think, by reference to my former communication, you will find a description of the soil; but I will now be a little more explicit, and say there is a great variety of surface-soil on my farm. In plowing across a field of ten acres, you will find sand, gravel, clay and muck; but generally all three combined, forming a loam, all resting upon a clay substratum, varying from eight inches to two feet below the surface of the earth. I have never tried under-draining, but am well convinced of its utility, and intend, ere long, to practice it.

I may as well finish out my sheet, by giving you my experience and observations on

ONCE PLOWING, AND FALL PLOWING.

Perhaps your readers will infer, from the experiment which I made, that I am no advocate for "once plowing." Not so, however. Notwithstanding the result was decidedly in favor of twice plowing, in the experiment alluded to, yet the reasons why the land, with once plowing, did not produce equally well with the other, are, I think, very obvious.

That portion of the field where the experiment was made, was covered with a thick coat of coarse manure, which was turned under at the first plowing. This, of course, made the soil richer below than at the surface, and the deep plowing necessarily brought to the surface a comparatively sterile soil—hence the reason why the wheat looked yellow and sickly, and did not produce equally well with the adjacent lands, where the manure was well mixed by two plowings. The order of nature was also partially reversed, for the mineral agents, so necessary to perfect the berry, were brought to the surface, while the vegetable mould, so necessary to the growth of the straw, was below the surface.

Every wheat grower is well aware of the necessity of having the surface of the soil as rich, or richer than the portions below, in order to insure a vigorous growth of the wheat in the fall; hence the reason why so many have failed in

raising wheat with once plowing—they do not enrich the surface sufficiently.

Now, I think if farmers would take the manure they intend for the summer-fallow, and pile it up under cover, mixing with it sufficient lime to thoroughly rot it, and apply this as a top-dressing to the land, just before sowing, they would not fail of a good crop with "once plowing," upon any sod—provided the plowing had been properly performed.

FALL PLOWING.

As great a diversity of opinion exists among farmers respecting the propriety of fall plowing, as upon any other department of agricultural pursuits; many contending that it results in no good, while others assert that it is positively injurious. Much, I think, depends on the nature of the soil, and the manner of plowing; a light, sandy soil, might not be greatly benefitted by fall plowing, and a mucky soil, by shallow plowing, might be greatly injured.

That deep plowing is highly beneficial to most soils, is evident from the following facts: 1st. The larvæ of insects are exposed to the frosts of winter, and thereby destroyed. 2d. Stiff, clay soils, by being plowed deep in the fall, become pulverulent, and less tenacious. 3d. They more readily imbibe ammonia, from rain and snow water—the latter containing this gas, which is so necessary to the growth of plants, in great abundance. Lastly, land that has been plowed deep, in the fall, will be found to settle, and become dry, much earlier in the spring than land which has not been plowed at all. And if manure has been applied in the fall, (which should be done at that time, if intended to be applied at all,) all that is necessary to fit it for a crop is to cultivate the surface thoroughly, and it is ready for the seed without another plowing.

In conclusion, then, I would say, if you plow at all in the fall, plow deep—but, by all means, plow.

Respectfully yours,

J. S. T.

For the Michigan Farmer.

SALTING STRAW.

Washtenaw County, 1851.

Mr. Isham:

In remarking to neighbor T—that Mr. P., (a very good farmer in this county,) informed me that he made a practice of sprinkling brine on his wheat straw, when stacking it, as it came from the threshing machine—that his cattle and sheep would eat it greedily, neighbor T., (who is also a good farmer,) replied that his practice was, to sprinkle a little salt on every alternate layer of sheaves, as he placed them in the mow.

To me, it is evident the latter practice is decidedly preferable to the former; for it not only secures the desired object, but in case there should be any grasses or weeds, or the straw not thoroughly cured, it would have a tendency to

prevent the wheat from becoming musty, besides being more easily done.

I am also informed by another, that the salt also adds to the weight of the wheat.

Having no doubt of the utility of the above mode, I have determined to adopt it next harvest.

Yours truly,

PITTSFIELD.

For the Michigan Farmer.

GROWING CORN—A NEW IMPLEMENT.

SOUTHFIELD, March 3d, 1851.

Mr. Editor:

Dear Sir: In my last communication, I dropped a hint about cultivating corn; I mentioned the plan of using the plow for the first working, instead of the cultivator, or of using the double-shovel plow. This latter is an implement that has just come into use in this section, and I think is not generally known, or used, in Michigan. Therefore, for the benefit of the farming community, I will give a slight description of it, that will enable the farmer to form an opinion respecting its utility, and perhaps to construct one, if any one should think it worth the trouble:

The wood work is similar to the single shovel plow, being made very light and easy to handle; but instead of one leg on which to fasten the shovel, there are two—one standing forward of the other, and a little one side of the centre, so that the rear shovel will follow beside the track of the forward one, cutting up the surface of the ground in a fine manner, and filling the furrow of the forward one, thus leaving the soil about the hill in a loose and nearly level condition. But to the plan again: The shovels are handily made out of a piece of spring steel, 7 inches by 17, which, cut in two and drawn out at the edges, makes a proper size; and 7 feet of half inch square bar iron, will suffice to make the braces, or stays, to support the legs, (being braced forward to the beam,) and make all the bolts, &c. The cost here, is as follows: Wood-work, one dollar; steel and iron, about eighty cents; and blacksmithing, about two dollars—in all, less than four dollars.

This plow, properly used, does up the business in a thorough manner. The cultivator works the surface of the ground only. The mould-board plow throws it in ridges, which is a very improper condition to leave the ground in, especially in case of drouth. I know it is thought by some, that hilling corn is an advantage. Why? Because it covers the brace-roots and supports the corn stalk. I have seen, in heavy corn, brace-roots shoot out above the surface of the ground, even after it has been hilled. I have noticed also, that corn which has not been hilled at all, stands up equally as well, and I think yields better.

My object in making these observations, is not to show my knowledge or experience in agriculture, but to aid in keeping the minds of farmers

active, in order that the business of farming may not be so dull and monotonous, and that many who chance to read now and then a little, (contrary to their usual practice,) may be induced to discard the old notions handed down to them by tradition, and try some experiments in their farming which will, if nothing more, serve to enliven their spirits, and keep their minds active and energetic—the most requisite endowments a man can be possessed of. Without energy and ambition, a man is worth but little. The mind, kept active in its pursuits, will always find enough to dwell upon, without seeking troubles, real or imaginary, either of which it is useless to cherish, and folly to dwell on. All troubles in mind become magnified by constant thinking of them.—Hence the necessity of keeping up a stimulus to action in our lawful pursuits.

Farming, in by-gone days, was considered a low, degrading business, only fit to be followed by men of the meanest capacities; but the time has come, when men of sound minds, and business habits, have discovered that it is the most independent means of obtaining a livelihood; that it is a science; and also that it is, in at least some little degree, honorable; and consequently many have engaged in it with alacrity and delight.

Yours, &c.

A. D. S.

For the Michigan Farmer.

SOLOMON AGAIN.

Mr. Editor:

I think your able correspondent, J. D. Pierce, has shown, conclusively, that the moderns have a great deal to do before they surpass the ancients in the arts and sciences. But I think the remark a little hasty, and made without due reflection, when he says "the modern nations have copied, but *can never* come up to, the ancient models." That they never have, may be true; but to say they never can, seems to me to be more than we are justified in saying, at this time. It may be difficult to determine to what an extent the inventive genius of the American nation may be carried, during the next two thousand years; but I have an abiding faith in the Yankees, and believe the time will come, when they will be able to come up to the ancient models, and accomplish all that has been accomplished, and a little more.

In describing the temple of Solomon, Mr. P. says: "It was twelve by six rods, four hundred feet on three sides, and nine hundred and sixty feet high on the fourth." Now I would inquire if he has not got it a little too steep?

He says, in the fore part of his communication, that he took up the good old Book, so I concluded he got the dimensions of the temple from it, and thinking he had got it rather high, I took up the record, and, if I read aright, it informs us that it was 60 cubits long, 20 wide, and 30 high.—Will Mr. P. inform us by what rule, in sacred arithmetic, he gets the height of the temple?

Will he also inform us how much gold and silver there was used in building the temple? I have seen it estimated at two thousand millions of dollars, of gold, and three thousand four hundred and twelve millions of dollars, of silver.—Then there was the brass and iron. If this estimate is correct, the glass house they are making so much ado about, over the other side of the fish pond, sinks into utter insignificance when compared to the temple.

Yours, &c.

For the Michigan Farmer.

SOWING CORN FOR FODDER.

Mr. Editor:

In your March No., "J. C." wants to know how much seed is sown to the acre, &c., in growing corn for fodder. Not having seen very minute directions in your paper, and believing some of your many readers might wish to know how the thing is done, my experience of eight years is at your service:

The ground should be rich—the richer the better; plow and pulverize well, very well; take a small plow, gear it up so as to run two or three inches deep, and mark the rows three feet apart. Put your basket on your arm, and scatter the corn in the furrows, thick— $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to the acre, at least. Dent corn is the best kind, it grows taller. By no means sow the common yellow kinds; Dutton is next best.

If your ground is very clean, free from sods, roots, &c., take a light harrow and pass it lengthwise of the furrows. If not clean, cover with hoe. Go through with horse and cultivator, as often as necessary to keep weeds down. Before frost, rig you some knives—an old scythe will answer; let it stand in; bend the tops of two rows together, and tie them; set up as much as you can conveniently bind at the top; the crop is now secure from frost and rain; let it stand till late in the fall, as it is very apt to heat in the stack, or mow, if packed in mass. It makes the best of hay for horses—cattle and sheep eat it with delight. Burden, according to richness of ground, cleanliness of tillage, &c.—4 to 8 tons per acre; height of stalk, from 4 to 6 feet.

A good crop can be made in clean ground, by sowing broadcast, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 bushels to the acre; but it is more labor to harvest it.

Yours, &c.,

C. F. A.

Glass Creek, Barry Co. March, '51.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir: I have been, for some days, traveling through a portion of this country, and have paid some attention to the condition of farming affairs. There has been much written on the subject, and much done in various ways, yet there is room.

I find many of the inhabitants living in very poor houses, hardly fit to shelter their laboring

animals, while the latter are remaining in the open fields, without shelter of any kind, many of them in very low condition, entirely unfit for business. I find, also, many farms with very poor fences, while there is standing in the fields, a large amount of timber, which could be transferred into fences by a little labor. I also notice many farms entirely destitute of fruit trees.

I found only two or three who had procured a supply of wood for the season. Is it not strange that farmers should be so careless about their own interests?

Yours, &c.

A. HENRY.

Lansing, March 9, '51.

For the Michigan Farmer.

NOXIOUS WEEDS.

Friend Isham:

On page 44, of the current vol., friend "Plow Jogger" asks the question, "What do noxious weeds and grasses spring from when land is first cultivated?" Or, in other words, "Do those weeds (barn or pigeon-grass, purslane, &c.) first spring from seed, fifty or one hundred miles from cultivated land?" His desire to arrive at truth, from a canvass of facts and reasons concerning the matter, is laudable. Though I may not throw much light upon the subject, I will venture a few words, hoping they may induce thought in those who read them.

The object to be attained by the vegetable, is the perpetuation of its species. To this end its whole energy is directed. It is ushered into life by the genial action of darkness, air, heat, moisture and light. It expands, pushes forth its stems and leaves, opens its flowers, sheds its perfume, fructifies, and disperses its seeds, then withers and dies. And when these seeds, at the proper time, are submitted to the proper influences, they too, start into life, and pass through the same changes. Thus it has been, from creation's dawn, and thus it will probably be till time is no more.

And this law is of universal application; I may say there is no exception to it. There are plants that, beside their seeds, propagate by other means, but those means are tangible to the senses. Such plants as mushrooms, ferns, &c., some may think are exceptions; but they are not—they propagate by minute bodies, called spores, that are analogous to seeds.

Seeds are variously endowed with vitality, or a capability of enduring the vicissitudes to which they may naturally be subject. In some, this power is feeble, and the seed is transient; in others, it is remarkably strong. Such will hold their vitality for great periods of time, and then, when the proper influences begin to bear on them, come forth to vigor and freshness.

Dr. Lindley relates: "I have before me three plants of raspberries, raised from seeds which were taken from the stomach of a man whose skeleton was found thirty feet below the surface

of the earth. He had been buried with some coins of the Emperor Hadrian, and it is therefore probable that the seeds were 1600 or 1700 years old." Wood mentions the fact that some men digging a well in Maine, some forty miles from the sea shore, threw up sand from a remarkable layer, twenty-eight feet below the surface. It was placed by itself, and in a year or two, several shrubs, unknown in the locality, sprung from this sand, grew and produced fruit that proved to be the beach plum, of the sea shore.

It is related, that in boring for water, at Kingston, on the Thames, in England, some earth was brought up from a depth of 360 feet below the surface. It was immediately taken and carefully covered with a hand-glass, to prevent the possibility of any chance seeds getting upon it. In a short time plants vegetated from it.

So it is if a salt spring finds its way to the surface, in the interior of the country, vegetation peculiar to saline locations, soon appears. Certain marshes were many years ago drained in the island of Zealand. Soon it was observed that a species of sedge, the *carex cyperoides*, unknown then in Denmark, but very common in northern Germany, made its appearance in great abundance. After the great fire in London, in 1666, the whole burnt district was covered with a vast profusion of *sisyrinchium iris*. Instances like these might be multiplied indefinitely, showing the wonderful vitality of vegetable seeds.

But my friend "Plow Jogger" may query whether they do not equally uphold the idea of spontaneous production. I think not. There is no analogy for it; and besides, were it indeed doubtful, it would be more simple, and by no means as marvellous, to suppose that all plants must spring from some seed, root, bulb or bud, as that some should, and others spring from nothing.

One of the main elements of seeds, and which gives to them their anti-putrescent qualities, is carbon; and in the proportion which it may exist in the seed, to that extent is the seed capable of resisting decay. Hence it is that seeds may exist so long imbedded in the earth uninjured, and ready to spring into life, whenever chance may bring them within the vegetating influences. This is the reason why, in clearing off forests, plants before unknown, grow up. It is the reason why, when pine forests are killed by fires, other timber springs up, to take the place of the dead pines; and it is the reason why noxious weeds are found in the tracks of the cultivator.

But how the seeds came there in the soil, is the perplexing question. There are a multitude of ways, though we may not know the particular one. Birds, no doubt, scatter seeds, and to a great distance, but not so much, in my opinion, as many believe. There is no animal possessing more perfect powers of digestion than the bird, and it must be rare indeed, if one voids a seed uninjur-

ed in its vitality. They may cast them up from an overgorged crop, or stomach. Animals convey seeds, in various ways. Winds and hurricanes, waters and floods, frequently perform the same business. Accidents sometimes do it. Many of our noxious weeds have minute seeds, that may often be conveyed unnoticed among the grain we sow, or in the fodder we procure to feed.

Besides these contingencies, and a multitude of others, we must remember that this country was peopled with human beings before it was known to its present inhabitants, and even anterior to the present race of Indians; so that it was not impossible that these pestiferous weeds were the pests of *their* cultivated fields, impregnating the earth with their embryos so freely, that enough have escaped the vicissitudes of time to spring into active life the moment the new soil is opened to the genial influences that tend to clothe the earth in its robe of green.

This subject is indeed a fruitful and interesting one; but I have made this article so long already, that not only your own patience, Mr. Editor, but that of your readers, is no doubt exhausted. I will drop it, therefore, for the present.

T. E. WETMORE.

Laphamville, Kent Co., Feb., '51.

For the Michigan Farmer.

FARMING WITHOUT AN AGRICULTURAL PAPER.

NORTHVILLE, March 17, 1851.

Mr. Editor:

I have promised those whose names and money are enclosed, an adequate return for their outlay, in the first No., containing the essay. It is worth five times that, to any man engaged in wheat growing, who is not better versed in the science of agriculture than the generality of farmers. The eminently practical and scientific character of the essay, brings it home to the wants of the wheat culturist, and it may be safely taken as a text-book and guide. Of this I am well satisfied, from experiments I have tried, in consequence of suggestions gleaned from agricultural works and papers.

Strange that any farmer can content himself, or be satisfied, without the best agricultural paper he can find; and let me say to the farmers of Michigan, that "our Farmer" is better adapted to their wants, than any other paper of the kind, east or west, and that they should take an interest and an honest pride in sustaining it, in preference to any other. The trifling price paid for it, will pay at least a hundred fold, or more. Of this I am certain there is no mistake, if carefully read and digested. From what experience I have had, no man need fear of sustaining any loss, on account of expense incurred in purchasing a well-selected agricultural library; and no farmer should think of doing without one, and as large as he can afford. In this way, he may, to some extent, make amends for that deficiency in

education, in which, I hope, the next generation will not be wanting.

I wish to make one suggestion to the correspondents of the Farmer: i. e. that they leave out the *apologies*, which take some, and sometimes considerable, space. Recollect that you are writing for farmers, and that the subject matter is what is wanted, and that the size of our paper won't allow of any space for anything of the kind. Just allow our good-natured editor to dispose of them as he thinks fit.

HORATIO.

For the Michigan Farmer.

TWO QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

Mr. Isham:

Sir: Your correspondent J. C. Allen, inquires concerning the durability of oak, sassafras and red elm, for fence posts. Permit me to answer, in the absence of one better qualified:

The durability of the different kinds of timber with which I am acquainted, I will class as follows: 1st, red cedar; 2d, white cedar; 3d, tamarack; 4th burr oak; and, 5th, swamp oak.—The first two are not to be had in this locality; the three last named are abundant in most places. Either of these kinds, split or sawed, of suitable size, and set, while green, top end down, will last much longer than if placed top end up. Of sassafras I have no knowledge, having never seen it too large for a hand-spike. Red elm, for rails, is excellent when kept from the ground, and is equal to black ash, or even chestnut, but for posts it is absolutely worthless; so is red oak and yellow oak—either will rot off in four years.—White oak is inferior, lasting but three, four, and five years—so says my experience.

"J. C." inquires to know the amount of corn to be sown on an acre, for fodder. Permit me also to answer this question:

On the 10th of June last, I sowed two bushels of yellow dent corn, on half an acre, being a part of my barn yard, and very rich; I think it was just right, and notwithstanding the distressing drouth, the amount of product was tremendous—should I tell how much, you would question my veracity.

Respectfully yours, J. R.
Sharon, March 10, '51.

For the Michigan Farmer.

CORN FODDER.

WALNUT HILL Farm, Kent Co.

Mr. Isham:

I see in your March No., a correspondent, signing himself "J. C.," is desirous to know what kind of corn to sow for fodder, and how much to the acre. I have had some little experience in this matter, and am willing he and others should have the benefit of it. I have sowed two kinds, or varieties of corn, for this purpose, to wit: small yellow, or Dutton, and the sweet. I much

prefer the latter, on account of its greater tendency to sucker, and the larger amount of saccharine matter in the stalks.

Sow four bushels to the acre, on the furrow, and harrow lengthwise first, thereby throwing the corn partially into drills. I would recommend to sow early—say from the 10th to the 25th of June, so that it can be cut and cured in favorable weather. I would recommend, as the next best variety with which I am acquainted, the white flint, on account of its propensity to throw out lateral stalks.

I am one of your new subscribers, and do not wish to obtrude myself, or I would give the details of the process of cutting, curing, &c.* I am much pleased with the Farmer, and shall be always ready to contribute my *mite* towards its success.

D. C. McVEAN.

* Let us have it.—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

FATTENING HOGS.

Mr. Isham:

The experience of practical farmers throughout the State, made known through the columns of the Michigan Farmer, is of great utility to those who have had less experience, and have not given their minds to reflection on the subject. You have called on your subscribers to contribute to the columns of the Farmer, and as I am not aware that anything has been written on the subject of fattening hogs, I will venture to give my experience on that branch of the farmer's occupation.

I am well aware that there are various ways to fatten hogs, but what the farmer wants to know, is the best and cheapest. In the first place, there are many farmers who think potatoes boiled are of little worth, and make poor pork. I agree with them, in case they are used in the ordinary way of being half boiled. My method of using them, is to cut up pumpkins, and put them in the bottom of the boiler—say five or six; then wash about three bushels of potatoes and put on the top, cover them well, in order to keep in the steam, and boil them as fast as possible; and as soon as they are cooked, off with the covering, take a shovel and mix them fine; then put in enough meal or shorts to create fermentation; mix well, and my word for it, hogs will fatten as fast as on any food they can be fed with, and it will make good pork, too.

The reason why potatoes do hogs so little good, is because they are spoiled in boiling; first, they may be spoiled by very slow boiling, and, secondly, by boiling after they are cooked thro'; the quicker they are cooked, the better.

But it costs a good deal of time, and unless a farmer has plenty of help, I should not think it advisable, where corn is as easily raised as it is in this country. In regard to feeding corn, some tell us to throw it out to the hogs with the basket; it is the cheapest way hogs were ever fattened, it

takes so little time to feed. My experience has satisfied me that 1 bushel of corn ground into meal, is worth 2 bushels fed in the raw state.—One peck of meal will make a five pail kettle full of pudding. Make it over night, and it will be ready for use in the morning.

Another way, is to put the meal in the tub at night, and put boiling water on it; stir together until well mixed, make it thin, and by morning it will be fermented and fit for use. All food should be fermented before given to hogs, and fed to them before it becomes too sour, as they will not relish it after it has *passed* a state of fermentation. All sweet food, taken into the stomach of a hog, becomes fermented before the system receives the nutriment; consequently, a great portion of the food given in a sweet state, passes off without benefit, and is lost. Where the fermented food is taken into the stomach, the nutriment immediately passes into the system. This is true, according to my experience and observation in fattening hogs.

CHARLES COREY.

For the Michigan Farmer.

TREATMENT OF SHEEP.

BURR OAK, March 6th, '51.

Mr. Editor:

Your correspondents have said many good things about sheep and wool; but there are some little things which I think are of great importance to the sheep and wool grower, that I have not noticed in any of their communications. {They are items that I have obtained by my own observation and experience, and if they will be of any benefit to beginners in the sheep and wool business, all will be well.

As much care should be taken as to the build and shape of a sheep, as though it were an ox or a horse. A sheep with a long, thin face and neck, and small, naked legs, is not apt to be a healthy, strong-constituted sheep, and never bears a heavy fleece.

In keeping sheep, much care is required to preserve their health, especially in the fall season, between green and dry feed. Many farmers meet with great losses, by neglecting to feed their flocks and herds, when green vegetables are eaten up, or killed by the frost. They lose the flesh they obtain in the former part of the season, and then it costs twice as much to winter them, as it would if they had been properly taken care of before they became poor. I never knew a flock of sheep distempered in the winter, that had a plenty of good feed in the summer, and fall, and winter, with good open sheds to lay under in stormy weather and nights. Sheep should have a place where they can keep dry in the night.—If they lay in the snow, or where it is wet, the wool on the belly, which is very near the vitals, gets filled with water, and scarcely gets dry during the day, which injures the sheep very much.

I want my hay, for my animals that live on hay, cut after the seed has got to its full growth, but

not so dry and harsh as to shell while curing.—Reason and experience both teach that unripe vegetables are not healthy for man or beast.—Sheep are a very critical animal about their feed, in thawey weather in winter. The best way I have ever found, is to stack hay in a square pen of rails or poles; have the rails as high as a sheep can reach, and so far apart that a sheep can get his head between them, without danger of getting hanged. When they have eaten what they can reach, the rails may be shoved to the hay; the top of the stack can be fed when the ground is frozen or dry.

Much care should be taken to prevent hay seed or chaff from getting on the sheep; it will work down into the wool, and there it will stay, to be sold with it. It cannot be washed out while on the sheep, and it opens the wool so as to let in other dirt, and water, which injures the sheep and wool.

Sheep should be tagged before the grass grows much, in the spring, to keep the wool clean from dung, which is also injurious to the sheep and wool. Never put sheep, before shearing in the spring, into a pasture where there are burnt logs, or stumps; nor with bushes or briars—they will pull the wool, and that will be lost. If you can do no better, let them stay late in your meadow, they will not hurt it till the tenth or middle of May.

As to feeding grain to sheep, shepherds disagree. From what experience I have had, I think grain enough to keep the sheep healthy and strong, is sufficient. Sheep that I intend to keep, and have do well year after year, I would not feed so high as to fatten them in winter—they will not do so well in summer. If I have good hay, half a gill of corn per day for a sheep, or vegetables of equal nutriment, is as much as I want to feed.

Sheep that I intend to keep, I wish to begin to feed as soon as green feed fails. They ought to have a stack of hay, as above-mentioned, that they can get at, frosty mornings; it does them much good.

Fifty sheep are as many as ought to be kept in one flock, in winter, for the good of the sheep; and it is much better for the owner of the farm, to have the manure scattered on different sections of the land, than to have it all in one place.—Much care should be taken, when washing sheep, to wash them clean; and when shearing, two sheep ought never to be shorn in one place, without sweeping; the fine dirt that cleaves to the wool will injure its sale.

When I was in the state of New York, I sold my wool for 50cts per lb; I carried some, at the same time, to the same market, for a neighbor, and could get but 28cts per lb; the main difference in the two lots of wool was, the latter was dirty and poorly done up. It is an easy matter to save from four to six cts. per pound, in doing up a fleece of wool. It is a good way,

when it can be done, to have a meadow that has not been eat down in the fall, for sheep to feed on in winter when the ground is bare.

That you may be successful in the good cause in which you are engaged, is the wish of

*The Old Man
that has passed 72 New Years' days.*

For the Michigan Farmer.

HEDGES.

Mr. Editor:

I have seen an article about hedges, in your Feb. No., signed "J. S. C." I would recommend every one who writes for a paper, to become well acquainted with the subject that they wish to write about, because incorrect statements are likely to lead those astray who would otherwise go straight.

I have been amongst hedges near forty years, and I flatter myself that I can hedge as well as any man in England, but I say nothing about America. I was never laid up with lame fingers one day, leave alone three months, as Mr. "J.S.C." says; nor did I ever see any one that was; neither did I ever see a hedge 12 or 14 feet wide; but I have seen hedges occupy from 2 to 4 feet. The law, in England, allows one man three feet from the centre of his fence, for a ditch, on his neighbor's land, and this, he is compelled by law to keep cleared and shoveled out, as often as necessary. But as regards hedges in this part of America, where the land is dry and wants no ditching, three feet will be quite sufficient.

I have only been in this country a little over two years, and commenced on wild land; yet I have about 600 yards of hedge set, and if I am not disappointed, and sadly, too, I think to have all my little farm fenced with hedges, and that soon. I know the value of hedges, and Mr. "J.S.C." does not, and so will you, Mr. Editor, when you see them in England. The English farmer will tell you, that a good hedge is very valuable, not as a fence alone, but as a shade in summer, for sheep, and cattle, and a shelter for them in stormy weather; and in spring it is far better for ewes and lambs to be under a good hedge, than in a sheep cote.

If my hedges grow, as I think they will, I will let you know.* Yours, ac.,

AN ENGLISHMAN.

* Let us know, whether they do or not.—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

ARTESIAN WELLS.

Mr. Editor:

Mr. Noble says he had been told there was an artesian well, on the Chicago road, east of Ypsilanti. Now, for the benefit of your readers, as well as of Mr. N., I will inform them that there are, probably, an hundred such wells in Wayne county; and if any of your readers wish to see a very remarkable one, let them call at the

farm of Mr. Cyrus Fuller, in the town of Livonia, four miles north-east of Plymouth village.—Mr. F. has two; the one that furnishes water for the family, was obtained by boring forty feet, if my memory serves me; the water rises four feet above the surface, and discharges a volume as large as could be forced through a hole four inches in diameter, and has been discharging in that manner for years. It is soft, and very cold in summer, and smells of brimstone.

Yours &c.

For the Michigan Farmer.

SHEEP, CATTLE, HOGS, &c.

Schoolcraft, March 2, 1851.

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir: It appears by your last number of the Michigan Farmer, that the "Sheep Fever" is raging to some extent, and that B. Peckham, as he says, is severely attacked with it. It is not, however, a very dangerous fever, particularly at the present prices of wool, and the remedy is near at hand. By spending a little time and money, the disease is perfectly curable.

For the benefit of friend Peckham, as well as others, I would state, that I have some very fine sheep for sale; a breed of Merinos, which I consider superior to any I have seen in two particulars, to wit, fineness of wool and great size of carcass. I do not know the particular family, from which they originated. They were selected and obtained from Mr. Hiram Pitts, of Ontario County, in the State of New York, and brought to Michigan, by B. Bishop, Esq., of Gourdneck Prairie, in this county, some years since. I purchased of Mr. Bishop his entire flock, in order to obtain his fine ones. They have been carefully bred, and I now have eight full blooded yearling bucks, for sale at \$10 each. Their fleece, last year, when very well washed, weighed from 5½ to 7 1-4 pounds; my whole flock averaged 4 lbs. 9 oz. each.

I have the testimony of one of the best manufacturers in this State, that the quality of wool, was superior to any thing he had seen; not being of the gummy order, but silky in its texture. It was carefully compared, by said manufacturer, with a sample of wool, taken from one of the best Escorial ewes, which the Hon. Charles E. Stewart obtained in the State of Connecticut, and he said, it was equally as fine in the fibre, and more silky in its feeling. The samples of wool were unknown to him when he made the examination.

I have also a kind of cattle, which I believe to be superior to most other breeds. I may with propriety call them "red short horns;" although they are not made up of one particular, and distinct breed, yet they have been bred from pure blood of different kinds, namely, Durhams, Holderness and Devons, and with such care (which on examination will fully show) that they

have formed a distinct breed of themselves.—Their colour, uniformly, being a beautiful cherry red; sometimes marked with a very little white; and their size and shape very much like the short horn Durham; and they are also exceedingly great milkers. I have as yet but little of this stock for sale, but considering them the best within my knowledge, I design breeding them expressly for sale.

My hogs are chiefly of the "Suffolk" breed, which with me is a very favorite hog; keeping fat on less feed than any other breed that I know of. They are not large, but heavy enough to be profitable to the farmer unless he breeds expressly to market pork, and then it would be a great advantage to have a cross of those with a larger breed.

I would further state that I have some of the finest kind of poultry, which I obtained from Doctor Freeman's great poultry yard, near Kalamazoo. None of these are yet for sale, but I would advise those who wish to improve in that branch of husbandry, to get a few from the Doctor. Their money will be well spent.

And lastly, I have a pair of pure blood Shepherd Dogs. No one, who is unacquainted with that breed of dogs, can properly appreciate their value. In some instances their work is of more value than a man's, bringing up cattle or sheep, much sooner than a man could. I consider all other dogs, to a farmer, perfectly worthless.

I think friend Peckham, resides in Jackson county, and, if I am not mistaken, he does not lack in enterprise; and the distance not being very great, I hope he will make it convenient to call and see my sheep; indeed, I should be happy to have a visit from him or any other gentleman who is desirous of obtaining fine stock, and shall take great pleasure in showing them my stock of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry and dogs, all of which are important to the farmer.

ANDREW Y. MOORE.

For the Michigan Farmer.

WIRE WORMS AND SORREL.

Mr. Isham:

I see that your correspondents are troubled a good deal about the wire worm and sorrel. They don't trouble me much. I had a piece that I mowed 17 years. I plowed it and sowed to oats. The wire worm eat them all off. I then drained and sowed to buckwheat for three successive years, and had three good crops. I then sowed to oats, and got a noble crop. Last year it was in corn; it was great, and no wire worm.

Now for the sorrel. When my land was cleared, I found patches of it. I planted to corn; the sorrel gained; I sowed to wheat; had great sorrel and little wheat. The next spring I plowed early and sowed to buckwheat; it grew

thick and stout; I plowed again and sowed again about the first of July, and had a good crop.—The next year I plowed and sowed about the first of June; took off the buckwheat, turned it over, and sowed to wheat; got a good crop; but farewell to sorrel, I have not seen it since.

UNCLE JOE.

For the Michigan Farmer.

MUSIC.

Mr. Editor:

The man who never felt an inclination to sing, must surely be either a most unhappy, or an exceedingly dull and stupid mortal. It would, I think, be easy to prove, that if a man is merry, he will infallibly sing.

Each profession or calling, produces its own appropriate and peculiar train of thought, and therefore demands its own special and exclusive modes of expressing those thoughts.

With respect to agriculture, either as a science or a calling, it will be admitted, that there is a paucity, a dearth, of lyrical compositions deserving the character of respectability, applicable to the wants and circumstances of a working farmer. In didactic poetry, Virgil's *Georgics*, Dryden's *do*, and some others of a similar character, have from time to time appeared. In descriptive poetry, rural scenes, and rural sounds, frequently find a place. Shakspeare, Milton, Pope, Cowper, and especially Bloomfield and Burns, may be referred to for examples. From pastoral poetry, selections might be made and appropriately set to music. But as "the age of Chivalry is o'er," so the age of Shepherd's piping to Shepherdesses, is also past. It would be sickening to see a great overgrown booby, puling and whining about Chloe, and Daphne, and Phyllis, especially if he had a family of half a score of children to attend to.

A collection of songs adapted to ploughboys and farmers, is still a desideratum. Beranger in France, has furnished some simple and beautiful compositions for his countrymen. The burden of one of them is still familiar, though a long interval has elapsed since I last saw it. 'Tis as follows:

"Fa ha, ye villagers come dance with me,
Come dance around the old oak tree."

But the very aspect of the vine-clad hills and valley's of the South of France, has in it all that is exhilarating to the heart, all that is inspiring to the imagination. Far different the case with this part at least, of our own Michigan. We cultivate no vines (except *punkins*); we produce no wine "to make glad the heart of man." Our "Rouge" is no Helicon; our sandhills are not Parnassus; and Pegasus himself would become restive; (*Vulgis Balky*) on our muddy roads.—But to raise wheat is low; and to embellish what is coarse and common, is justly regarded as one of the highest efforts of poetic art, if then all

things considered, a mere *poetaster* should be found incapable of any exalted flight, there will be little at which to wonder. In the absence of something of a superior character, more acceptable and more appropriate, I send you the following effusions, believing that when any of my brother farmers are disposed to sing, they will consider these ditties as at least equal to such melodies as

Hooke-Pooke-Winke-Wang,
The king of the Cannibal Islands.

THE FARMER'S SONG OF THE SEASONS.

Plough, brothers plough, for all men depend
For bread, on the sweat of the brow,
The three greatest blessings kind heaven doth send,
Are the Loom, and the Anvil, and Plough.
Sow, brothers sow, and stint not for seed,
Cast far and wide, early and late,
Which prospers we know not, is perforce our creed,
And success is dependent on fate.

Mow, brothers mow, cut clean, cut around,
Make hay while the sun shines, we sing,
Nor drunkard, nor idler among us is found,
Swing your scythes, brothers, cheerily swing.
Full ripe our grain, the weather aright,
Then hey for the cradle and rake;
Hurrah for the cradler who lays his swath straight,
And the binder close up in his wake.

Change, seasons, change, let winter come round,
Our cattle we tend with all care,
'Spare not that tree, woodman,' cut down to the ground,
For fuel or fences' repair.
Great are our pains—small are our gains,
Too scant the reward of our toil:
But one consolation still for us remains,
We are truly the Lords of the soil.

Undignified, degrading, and low,
Our labors to some may appear,
But what more important we dare them to show,
Howe'er they dispise us and sneer,
Still let them sneer, and turn up their nose,
As at objects offensive and foul,
Though dirty our hands be, and homely our clothes,
We still show them we've no dirty soul.

O. WARD.

SONG OF THE FARMER'S WIFE.

Sing, sisters sing, not of war's alarm,
Nor the statesman's exciting career,
But sing the employments of home on a farm,
Scenes far more congenial and dear;
Lowly our cares, not irksome our toils,
Bedewed with each returning day,
While lov'd one's repay us with approving smiles,
We with singing drive "dull care away."

Milk, sisters, milk, rich flows the stream,
From our Dairymaids, black, white or red,
We find our reward in butter and cream,
And thus help gain our little ones bread.
Wash, sisters, wash, a proverb no more,
Shall washing days ever be found,
While washing and scouring our clothes o'er and o'er,
Love and kindness shall always abound.

Weave, sisters, weave, swiftly throw
The shuttle athwart the loom,
And mark how swiftly the colour's grow,
That have beauty, but no perfume.
Spin, sisters, spin, weave and spin,
And merrily sing as you weave,

'Tis better to work than live idle,
'Tis better to sing than to grieve.

Far o'er the rest, this duty is ours,
The minds of our children to train,
Instill truth and virtue, develops their powers,
And make knowledge easy and plain.
While acting thus, our life flows along,
Smooth and pleasant, though sorrow may come,
We'll meet them with courage, and still chant our song,
"Though homely, there's no place like home."

C. WARD.

GREENFIELD, March 6, 1851.

For the Michigan Farmer.

WHEAT GROWING.

(Continued.)

According to a statistical table, prepared with much care, by Seba Murphy, Esq., of Monroe, the average yield of the wheat crop of our State, averaged about ten and a-half bushels to the acre. To what particular year his table had reference, we are not informed, but I think it must have been an unfavorable one.*

The great wheat growing State of Ohio, has fallen below this average as many as three years in the last ten, and there has been a period in the agricultural history of my native county, (Seneca,) one of the very best wheat growing regions in the State of New York, when their average yield did not exceed these figures, as the proceedings of their County Society will show. They, however, soon ascertained the cause of this falling off, and lost no time in applying the remedy for the evil by way of judicious husbandry.

These things, therefore, prove nothing against wheat growing, neither do they prove that our lands have really become impoverished, because all experience has taught us that the next person who tills properly, those lands said to be exhausted, receives a rich reward. Wheat has been grown on the same ground in the State of New York for more than fifty years, producing twenty-five harvests, without returning any of the mineral elements to them, and these lands are said to produce more abundantly now, than they did twenty-five years since, which is no doubt owing to the better mode of cultivation. No one can for a moment believe, that our lands have become deficient in natural fertility, by injudicious management, in the short space of ten or fifteen years. They may undoubtedly cease to produce, in consequence of a protracted, worthless system of tillage, the organic substances so necessary to fertility and growth of vegetation, having departed to seek shelter with some more skilful husbandman.

Had the statistical table alluded to, been prepared and published with reference to the past season, our reputation as a wheat growing State would not be ebbing for the want of an abundant yield, and that too of the best quality.

We are now producing more wheat, in proportion to our population, than any of our neighbors, and we stand fair to become, with proper

culture, one of the very best wheat growing States in the Union. That other branches of industry will follow wheat growing, and become equally as profitable, no one can deny; but the question arises, are we prepared to entertain them to the exclusion of wheat growing? This, I think, will be answered in the negative; therefore, let us look wisely to the best and most economical mode of culture, and be willing to profit by each others experience.

Sheep husbandry will doubtless rank next in importance, and form an essential link in the chain of profits; already it begins to tell on the right side. It is identified with wheat growing and will be considered more in detail in a subsequent article. It is idle for the farmer of Michigan to entertain the project of raising beef, pork, butter, cheese, corn, barley, oats, &c. They do not readily command cash, though they may at times be in demand, at prices paying for producing, principally for home consumption. Purchases are transient for these articles; a farmer may stand a week in any market out of Detroit and not make a sale.

Most of our lands bordering upon the lakes, are well adapted to raising neat stock. This, however, is a branch of business that does not pay at present, the home market being insufficient to warrant farmers a living profit; and to use a drover's phrase, they eat their heads off driving East, as those can testify who have been engaged in it longest; even the raising of thorough bred animals, though they are so much wanted, has not proved a remunerating business to individuals who have engaged in it. The country has doubtless, been mostly benefitted at the expense of their capital and enterprise.

WHEAT GROWER.

* According to the report of the Secretary of State, the wheat crop of Michigan, year before last, averaged only a fraction over eight bushels to the acre.—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

PLOWING.

Mr. Isham:

I became a subscriber to the Michigan Farmer, not that I expected it to excel all other Agricultural periodicals, but, that being a Michigan Agricultural paper, it would, likely, be more peculiarly adapted to the wants of the agricultural community, by the interchange of ideas of persons similarly situated, as regards climate, products, markets, &c., and it is even so.

On page 345, vol. 8, Mr. W. Dougherty asks, "What advantage is there in plowing green-sward, and lapping the furrows?"

Plowing green-sward flat, on a loose, mellow, and dry soil, may answer a good purpose. But in plowing a stiff, clayey, moist, or heavy soil, the furrows ought to lap, not stand upright, but lap closely, the depth of the furrow to be in proportion to its width, as six to nine, with the cutter set so as to leave a prominent angle to the furrow.

Plowing should be done in fall or early spring, so that frost may act upon it. I have seen thousands of acres so cultivated, harrowed twice in a place, before sowing, and several times after, and rolled. The grain all grew from the lapping of the furrows, as marked, and distinct, apparently, as wheat appears in fall, when sown by a seed drill.

Had such land been plowed with flat, broad furrows, all the harrowing in creation, would not have covered the seed properly, and the crop would have been deficient.

Dr. Brodie, page 331, declines giving his opinion of the different modes of plowing. Sorry for it. I esteem his article greatly, and believe that he knows something of what good plowing is.

If you visit the "Land O' Cakes," ask the farmers of the Caves of Gowrie, or on the "Cinks of Forth," near Stirling, and if they will not endorse the above, I am greatly mistaken.

Yours, &c., JAMES DAWSON.

Nankin, Wayne Co., Michigan.

Educational Department.

For the Michigan Farmer.

COMMON SCHOOLS.

Friend Isham:

If our farmers would consider a little, they could make a vast improvement on the educational system pursued in their district schools. I have visited several in the west, and have found them, with a few honorable exceptions, almost invariably wanting the requisite conditions to lay the foundation of greatness in any pursuit.

The teachers are generally selected rather for the low price at which they will serve, than for their qualifications, literary or moral. A visiting committee is never heard of, and every three months the teacher is changed. I have spoken about this changing to several farmers, and the reply always was, "if my children can read and write, it is sufficient."

What can have originated this idea, I know not. To give a child abilities to pursue the road to science, and then bar the way, is a deplorable act. Farmers ought to, and must, educate their children well, or else sink under the weight of the sin their own negligence has permitted. As the individual, so the nation, is a maxim generally admitted.

Now, how are western farmers to compete with their more enlightened neighbors of the east, if they do not sustain and improve their district schools? Whence are they to draw their statesmen, if not from the district schools?—And where is the farmer who would entrust the care of his nursery to a "green-horn," because he could get him a little cheaper than one who had qualified himself for the business.

Yours,

CINCINNATUS.

For the Michigan Farmer.

THE SCHOOL TEACHER.

HICKORY CORNERS, March 9th, '51.

Mr. Editor:

Once more spring has returned with its promise—thrice welcome, after the chill blasts of winter. Although it brings with it renewed toil and exertion to the husbandman, it is ever welcome. His attention to his flocks and herds can soon be remitted, and his care and anxiety for them have an end. Not the less welcome, does spring show her smiling face to one who, like myself, has been all the long winter pent up in the close school-room, engaged in the arduous duties of a teacher. The labors of the farmer are no more arduous, while so great a load of responsibility does not burden his mind. Few rightly estimate the amount of solicitude and anxiety, inseparable from the occupation of an instructor of youth. Those, alone, whom experience has taught, can estimate it truly. I venture to say, there is no occupation which requires a more peculiar and happy combination of qualities, than that of teaching. Certainly there is none more useful, or upon which greater consequences are depending.

But how often does the teacher's vocation seem like a thankless task, from the want of countenance and sympathy from those whose best interests so vitally depend upon his zealous exertions. When we consider the multitude of different circumstances in which he is placed, the great variety of minds and dispositions he has to encounter, certainly there is no one who has greater claim to charitable judgment. But as I am not writing a treatise on school-teaching, I will not pursue the subject farther.

Yours,

BARRY.

"THINK, THINK, THINK!"—WIRT.

He only is the *true* student who every day learns, and treasures up, in the storehouse of memory, something new and useful. Nearly all the knowledge we possess has been acquired by littles. Every individual blessed with the power of reason, may add more or less to the stock of knowledge in the possession of the human race.

The habit of deep and thorough reflection, is the most important acquisition ever attained by mortal man. In fact, this habit must precede nearly all useful, extensive knowledge. Subjects for the most profound reflection, pass before our senses every moment of our lives. And if we do not possess this habit, these golden opportunities for obtaining knowledge are lost forever.

It is necessary, it is true, that we read and become acquainted with what has already been made known, in order to get a clue to further investigations. But reading is not only a means of acquiring knowledge, but it is also a means by which we are enabled to acquire correct habits of reflection.

CHAS. BETTS.

Ladies' Department.

For the Michigan Farmer.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN...No. III.

They should always be taught the alphabet, at least, at home. This can be done with very little trouble, and without at all confining the child. With a piece of chalk, make a letter in some place where you can frequently point it out, and as each is learned, add another, until all are mastered; and it is surprising how quickly a very young child will learn the alphabet in this way. In the same way you may teach it easy words. I would not care to have a child acquire much more "book knowledge" than to read, before 8 or 9 years old. It is far better to secure a good constitution, and habits of *observation*, than to have a smattering of geography, history, arithmetic and grammar, and the body enfeebled, by too early confinement in a school room.

Early instil into your children's minds, a love of kindness for all dumb animals; give them something of their own to love and take care of, if it is only a kitten. Teach the little child to listen to the sweet notes of the birds, to notice the beautiful flowers, to smell their sweet perfume, and above all, *who* made them, and all things for our comfort and enjoyment. Think how much is added to our existence, by loving and admiring all that is lovable and beautiful. How dull, and joyless must that life be, passed in indifference to all these things!

But I am again trespassing on your time, and that of your readers, if you do not altogether omit my dull and uninteresting remarks. I get so interested in my subject, that I am too profuse.

D. M. B.

For the Michigan Farmer.

ADIEU TO WINTER.

Farewell old Winter! Thou art almost past and gone. Thou art about to take thy departure for many long months. How brief has been thy stay, yet how many, in reviewing the past, can say thy season has been well and profitably spent. Who has improved the long evenings in cultivating their minds? Who has gone forth with a benevolent hand, with cheerful smiles, and kind words, making glad the hearts of the wretched and desolate? Thou art a frozen old friend, yet how beautiful is thy season. Who, that has looked forth and seen the earth covered with a pure, and spotless carpet; that has seen the rivulets fast bound by the icy fingers of thy strength, can say thou hast no charms? If there are any that feel there is nothing joyous in thy approach, they should look abroad in the morning, just as the sun is arising above the eastern horizon, upon nature's wax work. They should see every object bedecked with a feathery robe of frost, sparkling in the sun's bright rays like the

stars of Heaven. They should take one more view, when every tree, and shrub, yea, all external objects, are clad in the habiliments of shivering silver. Then remember, it is to thy presence they owe this magnificence; that thy frozen breath, congeals the tears of Heaven into "crystal jewelry."

Kind reader, have you forgotten the scenes of yore? do you remember, when the merry sleigh bells, and still merrier company, were at the door, ready to convey you to the country spelling school, or, perhaps, some gayer scene of festivity? Were you not happy, when, with a few chosen friends, you kept the holiday amusements, or whiled the hours rapidly away in cheerful conversation by your own firesides? O! you certainly must have been. Alas! the wintry scenes are almost past, and I must look for the last time upon the stern face of my old friend, and bid a regretted adieu. Farewell, Winter; farewell to thy joyous scenes; farewell to thy hoary frosts, and silver locks. Who, now, shall watch the expiring breath of the old gentleman? who shall drop the tear of sympathy for the departing one? Ah! look yonder, see the beautiful maid of spring, borne forward on the breath of the sunny south! see, how she hovers about the sufferer, and breathes her own balmy breath upon his frigid features. How kindly she puts forth her hand to close the eyes of the dying. Hark! the last blast of February heaves a sigh; and the stroke of midnight proclaims to the world that winter is at rest.

EMMA.

FEB. 27th.

For the Michigan Farmer.

A WORD TO MY FEMALE FRIENDS.

FLORENCE, January 4th, 1851.

SISTERS: Knowing the readiness of the human heart to credit any thing that comes in the form of an evil report, rather than to discredit it, without pausing to consider whether it be reasonable or not, I have again taken up my pen to say a few words, and hope you will deem them worthy of your attention—not because I consider myself capable of giving an adequate idea of the evils arising from this source, that I become thus public in my remarks, but merely because I wish to contribute my mite towards the grand reformation of the universe. But some of you may say, you were writing especially to the female part of community. So I am, and I can say without boasting, that I consider them if they set eagerly to work, in extending their moral influence, as the grand reformers of the age; and now to my subject.

The human race has been, ever since the creation of the world, continually committing errors, and correcting them, and what is the result? are we, after all this toil, freed from error? No! If we try to free ourselves from error, by exposing the faults of others, the deeper will we become involved, for persons cannot labor under a greater

mistake, than to think, that by holding up to view every petty fault of their neighbor, they are gaining the respect and applause of fortune's favored few. As well may they attempt to calm the troubled waters of the ocean, as to win respect from the noble minded ones of the earth. They do not deserve respect, neither shall they have it. No; the person who cannot forgive is not worthy of the respect even of the guilty; for he is no better. Error is the common failing of the human heart, and why should we, who are but mortals, make so much ado about small matters? 'Tis true, that some are more exposed to error than others, and for this reason we should learn to forgive. How many do we see around us from time to time, who have been the victims of precipitancy and indiscretion. How many there are now around us, who might have been among the happiest of the happy, who now are almost as miserable as any thing in life could make them. How often do we hear remarks made, of such a character, that if uttered in the presence of those referred to, would pierce to the very heart's core. This should not be. Such remarks should be checked ere we give them utterance. Shall I, because the God of nature has endowed me with a greater share of firmness than my neighbor, by which I can elude and escape some portending evil, and she, by being less scrupulous, perhaps, commits an error, from which a life of sorrow cannot retrieve her, shall I treat her with contempt, and consider her as fit company only for the brute creation? God forbid! If she has been guilty of one error, although it may be of the darkest hue, she still is capable of feeling; she still has an immortal spirit, and an eternity before her, and perhaps I, by speaking gently to her, and sympathizing with her, may cause a ray of hope to spring up in her mind, which will afford comfort and support. But I fear I am trespassing upon time and space, therefore I will leave the subject for the present, and let us all be up and doing while the day lasts; and if we discover that one of our sex has committed an error, though trivial, assist her to amend her fault, instead of spreading it from house to house.

Adieu.

LOYOLA.

For the Michigan Farmer.

THE WEST.

BY MARY E. HEYER.

Land of the West—happy land,
How beautiful thy prairies green,
How sweet thy lakes and dells, on every hand,
How comely is thy mien.
But it's not for lakes, or trees, or dells,
I love thy fertile fields to roam,
It is because my memory dwells
Upon my far, far distant home.
Thy forests rear their lofty tops,
Unsuited to the sky,
Thy hills and valleys yield their crops
Of every hue and dye.
But not for each or all of these,
I love thy fertile fields to roam,
Oh no, it's because my mem'ry sees
A likeness of my distant home.

For the Michigan Farmer.

WOMAN'S SPHERE.

Mr Isham:

I have read with much interest, several pieces in the Farmer, on the subject of "Women's Rights," and have often thought that I would transcribe and send some of my thoughts on that subject, for the perusal of the readers of the Farmer. But knowing that many others were more capable of writing on that subject than myself, I have been deterred from doing it. However, I have concluded to write, and trust to your discriminating judgment, whether it is suitable for insertion in the Farmer.

I will commence by asking, what can be the object of my own sex in taking the measures they have, with regard to the elective franchise? Is it from motives of vanity, or do they think they can exert more influence in the world? Some of them will perhaps dispute me, if I tell them that they already possess more influence than the other sex. And likewise, that they possess more influence, with regard to moral good and moral evil, than he who wears a crown and sways a sceptre. I am for reform in many things, but if we expect to accomplish any thing, we must begin in the right place. I think they have made a great mistake, and view this subject from a false position. Now, as it regards our influence being greater than that of the other sex, let me say that the Creator has differently constituted the two sexes. Man appears to be constituted for the purpose of engaging in the sterner duties and hardships of life—while woman, tender and delicate by nature, seems to be constituted for duties of a secondary order. If we consider the influence which the training of a child has upon its character in after years, we shall be constrained to admit that woman has already more influence in the world than man. The care of children is almost exclusively committed to mothers. The impressions they receive in early childhood from their mothers, will influence them in after life, either for moral worth, or moral evil; for it is said, "As the twig is bent the tree's inclined."—If our sex are depressed, by the enactment of injudicious laws, and customs, which are chargeable on "the lords of creation," let us bear with it for the present, and turn our attention to the proper remedy—the cultivation of the intellect and morals of the rising generation. First, let institutions be established, in addition to those already established, for the elevation of the female sex. Here let their social, moral, and intellectual qualities be cultivated. Let them not be competitors for intellectual glory and splendor, but for that which is far better—moral worth. Let every female be trained to virtuous and moral principles—all her faculties, that have been given to her by the Creator, be directed into their proper channel—and then, let her go forth into the world, to fill that station, which the Creator has destined her to fill, and she will exert a holy influence on

all with whom she associates, and all who are placed under her for training; and let her instruct those committed to her charge, in the ways of truth and righteousness; and let their minds be imbued with the benign and heavenly principles of Christianity: and they will be influenced by them in after life—for it is said, "Train up a child, in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." The rising generation thus trained, will soon arrive to manhood, and be capable of filling our legislative halls, sitting in councils, and guiding the helm of state.—If the Senate chamber, and legislative halls, are filled with men of moral worth and virtue, what need have we to fear the enactment of oppressive laws?

I see I am making my communication too long, and I will close by saying, begin with the children, and we shall have nothing to fear.

THORNAPPLE, Barry Co., Mich. S. L.

MICHIGAN FARMER.

Warren Isham Editor.

DETROIT, MAY, 1851.

PREMIUMS AWARDED.

The following is a list of those entitled to premiums, for obtaining subscribers for the Michigan Farmer:

1st Premium, (\$15, in agricultural works,) B. Peckham, Albion, Mich.

2d Premium, (\$10, in do.) O. H. Lee, Esq., P. M., Ypsilanti.

Those entitled to the Michigan Farmer and Mayhew on Education, are:

Hon. Hiram Brown, P.M., North Plains, Ionia county; Justus Gage, Esq., Dowagiac, Cass co.; Gen. Joseph Orr, Laporte county, Ia.; Col. L. Maynard, Marengo, Cal. county; J. H. Dubois, Esq., P.M., Columbia, Jackson county; Charles Spear, Esq., Door Village, Laporte county, Ia.

Those entitled to the Michigan Farmer, or Mayhew on Education, are:

Messrs. James Davis, Lima, Washtenaw county; Benj. Davis, Canonsburgh, Kent-county; Dr. A. E. Leete, P.M., Romeo, Macomb county; David Mills, Hadley, Lapeer county; Jason Sheldon, Paw Paw, Van Buren county; S. B. Smith Vergennes, Kent county; Levi Walker, Flint, Genesee county; D. Conover Ann Arbor, Washtenaw county; Garret Ten Brook, Adrian, Lenawee county; Sam'l Witter, South Bend, St. Joseph county, Ia.

Those entitled to the Wool Grower are:

James Flower, Armada, Macomb county; J. D. Bradley, Walton, Eaton county; A. Wilson, Boston, Ionia county; Kenyon Johnson, Ceresco,

Cal. county; Wm. A. Brown, Grand Rapids; Kent county; D. W. Taylor, Rivers, Jackson county; A. U. Sutton, Tecumseh, Len. county; Daniel Cook, Jackson, Jackson county; W. Randal, P.M., West Bloomfield, Oakland county; Wm. Savage, Litchfield, Hillsdale county; P. J. McCreary, Schoolcraft, Kal. county; M. B. Deland, Oxford, Oak. county; Haynes Johnson, Hillsdale, Hillsdale county; S. Blodget, P.M., Esmonds Corners, Cal. county; E. P. Harris, P.M., Rochester, Oak. county; J. A. Crawford, Vienna, Macomb county; B. Pixley, P.M., Portage Lake, Jackson county; Jer'h Brown, Battle Creek, Cal. county; R. Curtis, P. M., Gravel Run, Wash. county; Cha's Torrey, Auburn, Oak. county; J. Anderson, P.M., Plainville, Allegan county; J.W. Osborn, Park, St. Joseph county; W. Root, P.M., Manchester, Wash. county; John Milham, Kalamazoo, Kal. county; Dr. H. R. Foote, Milford, Oakland county; O. Hampton, Hickory Grove, Barry county; J. J. Robinson, Sharon, Wash. county; Cha's Ward, Greenfield, Wayne county; E. H. Higley, Lapeer, Lapeer county.

In addition to the above, we are under great obligations to a great many others, who have procured a smaller number of subscribers, and whose only reward consists in the consciousness of having done something to benefit the community around them. Indeed, we apprehend that, in most cases, the premiums given will be but a meagre compensation for the labor bestowed, and will constitute by no means the richest part of the reward of those who have obtained them. To all, we tender our sincere thanks, and hail them as co-workers in the great cause of agricultural improvement.

Should there be any omission, or error in the above list, it will be corrected.

Those entitled to the Wool-Grower, will receive their first number in a few days, the volume commencing with the April number. Those entitled to the Michigan Farmer or Mayhew, will please inform us which they will have, and how they will have the latter sent. The premiums are all in readiness at this office, and await orders.

Monthly Miscellany.—This publication, in passing from the hands of Mr. Wellman to those of Beecher & Quinby, has dropped the name of its originator from its title, and comes forth as the "Monthly Literary Miscellany." It has lost none of its interest by the exchange, and in some respects it is much improved. It is ably sustained, is widely circulated, and its influence always for good.

MR. BOWNE AND THE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We clip the following from the Detroit Advertiser of April 1st, and consider the principles involved in it as too important to allow them to pass without some notice in this, the recognized organ of the farmers of Michigan. We have no acquaintance whatever with Mr. Bowne, and are willing, with the Reporter, to believe him to be a very honest, and well meaning man; but at the same time, we must also consider him a few years behind the age we are now living in; and cannot but smile to find the same objections, in substance made to an Agricultural Meeting in Michigan, as the papers inform us are made by the ultra Tories of England to the great World's Fair, which our excellent editor is now on his way to attend.

"The bill appropriating \$1000 to the State Agricultural Society was called up, and met with opposition from a quarter, the Society, without doubt, least expected—from the *farmers* themselves—Messrs Hayden and Bowne, who are in the Senate. Hon. Mr. Hayden said it was a system of begging which he deprecated and despised, and he believed the farmers would not sustain him in voting money from the public treasury when it was not needed. He was satisfied that if the farmers wanted a Society of this kind they would support it by private contributions; they were able to do so, and he thought they would. He, for one, was willing to pay his share, or what was necessary, as far as he was able. Mr. Dort from the 1st, replied, and gave some statistics which did not suit the old farmer from the— Hon. Mr. Bowne replied to Dort and Christianity, in a spirited speech in opposition to the bill.

I give you the speech as near as I could take it down, for he is a rapid speaker. I believe him to be a very honest and well meaning man.

MR. PRESIDENT:

I am opposed to this voting away money from the treasury. If a farmer who is pretty well off, wants to get his name in the papers, he brings out a *Bull* or a *Heifer* to these Agricultural Fairs, for the purpose of getting a premium, which costs him twenty dollars, and don't get more than one quarter of that money. This, I say, is filling the pockets of the rich at the expense of the poor. I am a farmer, and raise as good wheat, and as good corn and other kinds of grain, as my neighbors; and, Mr. President, the honorable Senators on this floor, who are anxious to vote a thousand dollars to this State Agricultural Society, don't even raise a *chicken*. I know that the farmers in Van Buren county don't have the least benefit from this Society; and to tax this poor class of our citizens, who have about as heavy taxes to pay as they can afford to be taxed, for the purpose of benefitting this Society, and the few who live near by where they hold their Society, I am opposed to it, for I think it is wrong.

Mr. President, I have seen *pails* there, that no man will buy, or can afford to buy—pails worth two dollars and a half. Now, Mr. President, I can buy as good a pail as I want for two shillings, and as stout, and will hold as much milk, as any of them. You will see quilts, and other kinds of needle-work, made by women who spend more time on them than they are worth; a large piece of side pork, seven or eight inches thick, and all such frivolous articles, which are hung all around the inside of the buildings. There is no use of having these Societies putting their hands into our treasury, when we are trying to raise a sinking fund,

(I hope it is not like the sinking fund we have had before,) to pay off the debt we have already upon us. I think those who want the benefit of this Society, should pay for it out of their own pockets. I, therefore, hope the bill will not pass."

We shall only make a few short remarks, believing that the great body of our farmers are too enlightened to sympathize with principles, the tendency of which, is decidedly to throw us back in the march of intelligence and social improvement. First, then, we deeply regret to see this and other attempts to draw a line between the *rich* and the *poor*, between "*gentlemen farmers*" and "*working farmers*," as it has been elsewhere expressed. The meaning of the terms *rich* and *poor* we can understand. The other designation, in a republican, and hard working country, where labor is an honor, and laziness a disgrace, is beyond our comprehension. Poverty, however, is no stain on a man's character; riches are no credit, except as a sign and proof of industry, talent and ability; and if unrighteously or meanly acquired, they become the very branding of shame. In a new State, like this, the distinction never should be made. There is, perhaps, scarcely a farmer who did not come here *poor*; he had just enough to enter his land, put up his log house, and buy his plough and team; and if he is now better off, it is the sweat of his brow, the straining of his muscles, and above all the labor of his mind, that have made him so. He was poor at home; the population was too thick, and the land too much worn; he emigrated to a newer and fresher soil, and has reaped the reward of his enterprise and industry. If his neighbor has not been so successful, allowing him to be free from intemperance, it is probably, in consequence of unavoidable circumstances, sickness, want of information, bad seasons, and unforeseen misfortunes; but it is no proof that he is not as worthy a man, and as useful a citizen. Away, then, with such invidious distinctions! They can do no good; they lead only to heartburnings, envyings, and jealousy, and are peculiarly out of place in a country, where, to a proverb, riches make to themselves wings and flee away; where, in the revolving of a few years, the poor become rich, and the rich poor.

"WORTH makes the man, without it the fellow,
All the rest is but leather and prunella."

It is not the coat, and the smooth hands, and flowing locks, that make the gentleman. Every man is a gentleman who is intelligent, kind, civil; free from selfishness and meanness, and does unto

others as he would they should do unto him.—These are *Nature's gentlemen*, and they are worth a dozen made by the tailor and the dancing master.

We pass over the unfounded assertion that a desire to have one's name in the papers leads farmers to exhibit their stock; and we are most sincerely glad to learn that Mr. Bowne raises as good wheat and corn as his neighbors. But how did he learn to do so? *On this hangs the whole principle of agricultural fairs.* Farmers are necessarily cut off from much association with each other. It is a peculiarity of their profession that they become wedded to old ways, and are averse to improvements. The mind falls asleep for want of the stirring risks, and wearing competition, the lot of the inhabitants of cities; and in consequence, we are all liable to be content with a degree of improvement, far below what we might attain, and this with little trouble, if our minds were more frequently brought into contact with the minds of others, and the results of others' ingenuity and industry were presented to our eyes. We do not believe Mr. Bowne capable of asserting that he has reached the acme of wheat growing, and can learn nothing more, nor increase his average crops even by a peck an acre. This were a degree of conceit beyond a man of common sense. He has, however, reached the standard of his neighbors. Let him then go among others. Let him compare notes, examine new and labor saving implements; let him talk with the farmer who has raised the biggest crop in Michigan, and we are sure that he would come home with a lower opinion of his own success, with a hard determination to exceed and beat his neighbors; and if he is an enterprising man, with his new plow and cultivator, and his improved fanning mill and drill, he would most probably next year, have not only a much larger crop, but at a much less expense. We trust that it may prove so with him. Mr. Bowne does as well as his neighbors. How did he learn? By watching them, talking with them, competing with them. Had he lived from boyhood in the middle of a prairie, away from neighbors, and been suddenly transplanted to his present position, there is no doubt that he would have been far behind, and had much to learn. An Agricultural Society is but the extending of our neighbors. Instead of a township of neighbors, we get a State full; and if we find but one who is superior to us, that one will inspire us with a de-

sire to improve, and cause us to attempt to gain his skill. Again, let us revert to a common mistake which Mr. Bowne makes. He sneers at some of the Senators, because they are not farmers, and thence would argue that they can know nothing about agriculture, and are going out of their way to interfere. We grant they may not be able to plow, or sow, or harvest.—Machines can do all this. But they can think.—They can deduce great social principles. They may know what renders a State, or a business, prosperous, happy, and useful; and they are therefore qualified to act in the matter. Sir Humphrey Davy and Professor Johnston, probably never even touched a spade, but agriculturists are more indebted to them than to a thousand mere working farmers, who scorn books, and papers, and "new fangled tools." These men enjoy the blessings of the labor of the minds of others without knowing it.

New York has set us a noble example. She cherishes her farmers as her heart blood, and spares nothing which can aid them in reaching success. The consequence is, that that State stands at the very head of *practical* agricultural ability; and though her lands have been most seriously injured by the old fashioned mode of working them, yet before long the intelligence and skill of her present race of farmers, will remove the mischief of past ignorance and mismanagement. It is said that more than half the population of Michigan is from New York, and we trust that her sons in a newer country will not prove unworthy of her, or recreant to the example of those whom they have left behind at home.

C. F.

DEATH OF JOHN S. SKINNER.

The agricultural public will learn, with profound regret, that that champion of agricultural improvement, Mr. *John S. Skinner*, is dead.—His powerful pen led the way at the opening of the agricultural press in America, and his untiring labors in this department made him well known throughout the whole country.

When leaving the Post Office, on Friday, the 20th ult., about three o'clock, he mistook the door, and opened one leading to the cellar, and stepping forward, fell down the flight of steps to the ground. He was taken up insensible, and survived only about four hours, not having spoken a word after his fall.

The farmers of America ought to erect a plain monument to his memory. C. B.

LAY IT TO HEART.

"It is estimated by an extensive observer, that the soil of this country is now worth, on an average, *five hundred millions* of dollars *less* than it was when Plymouth was first settled by Europeans. For, although a few spots have been increased in fertility since then, the great body of the cultivated soil has been permitted to deteriorate, until immense tracts which would once bear bountiful crops of wheat, will not now return the seed; and whole States, which would once have averaged forty bushels of corn to the acre, will not now average fifteen bushels.—And yet the ruinous process goes on, unheeded by the great mass, and unresisted, except by a few."

Professor Mapes of New York, once a wealthy merchant in that city, but since, for some years, a most successful farmer, and editor of the "Working Farmer"—for he lost his fortune in trade and had to return to his mother earth to gain a living—after pointing out the doleful deterioration of the soil in the eastern States, and the reckless waste of manures in the western, ably puts forth the remedy, in the subjoined article.—It is supposed that Gov. Barry will find it necessary to call an extra session of the Legislature, in which case no subject can be acted on, except such as he shall designate. We sincerely trust that he will prove himself to be sufficiently the *farmer's friend*, to give our representatives a *chance* of doing the farmers justice. They ask but for the proper application of a very small portion of those taxes which they themselves have paid, in order that their prosperity may be established, and their professional interests forwarded. On the farmer's, all other professions are dependent; and as the farmer succeeds, the others prosper. Had the Legislature adjourned two days sooner, it would have saved to the State a larger sum of money than the true friends of agriculture ask for, and an extra session will squander twenty times as much. Economy, therefore, can be no excuse with them. Remember, that if nothing is done *now*, two years must elapse before anything can be accomplished; and in these railroad days, two years are worth as much to us as a quarter of a century was to our forefathers:

PROFESSOR MAPES'S CURE FOR BAD FARMING.

"We have but one remedy, and that is entirely within our reach. Let our legislators spend part of the nine-tenths of the whole national income, which is now paid by farmers, in placing proper instructions within the reach of those who till the land—and that, too, in a way to be immediately effective. We must not wait to remedy the diffi-

culty by educating the rising generation; we must inform the many what is doing by the few who are successful as agriculturists. Some farmers raise one hundred bushels of shelled corn to the acre, and some raise fifty bushels of wheat to the acre, but these are the one in ten thousand. Send competent persons among the ten thousand to tell them how the one manages his crops—let any well educated practical man be called from his plough, and employed solely in collecting and disseminating information, and instead of raising large crops himself, he can cause a *thousand others* to do so. Every farmer should hear such a lecturer at least once in each year; and should have an opportunity of propounding questions for his examination. Such teachers would soon know what the farmers required, and could obtain the information for them from other and more successful practitioners.

It need not be urged that farmers will not listen to accredited teachers; we have lectured in many counties in New Jersey for three years, and in those where we first lectured most evident improvements have ensued. Farmers cannot leave home, and hence do not learn of the improvements of the day, unless they occur in their own immediate neighborhoods—nor will they have confidence in the recipes of mere book-makers; they must see those who would teach them, and have an opportunity by listening, and questioning, to form their own estimate of their capacity to teach; and, if they approve of the teacher, no set of men are more ready to be instructed. The improvements in agriculture in Europe are greater than at any former time—the free trade system, by lowering the prices of farm products, has rendered it imperative on governments, to enable the farmers to produce proportionate increased quantities, to compete with foreign prices; and did they not pursue this course, revolutions would be inevitable, or their farm products must be protected by high duties; and while our ratio of crops have been yearly decreasing, those of England have as steadily increased, until the opponents of their new school of politics are daily becoming converts to the new system. Every county of England now receives per annum more benefit in the form of agricultural information disseminated at the public expense, than the total amount paid for similar purposes since the formation of our government.

"Our politicians at Washington say that the powers of the General Government do not reach the case, and that it should be done by the States; if so, the States should not be inactive. New York does much by publishing large editions of the transactions of her State Society, and of the American Institute, but not half so much as she could and should do, by the appointment of a few lecturers to visit each county, collecting and disseminating information. Maryland has appointed a State Agriculturist, and already the good results have rendered both the office and the incumbent popular. No other

State has acted, as yet, in any way to improve their greatest source of wealth. Two men might exchange their hats once per hour for a year, and neither of them would be improved in fortune at the end of the time; but if each of them could produce new merchandise, as does the farmer, not only themselves, but the body politic, of which they form a part, would be benefited; and *as one per cent increase of crops would be more than equal in value to the whole of the present receipts of the government, it is at least proper that less than a one-thousandth part of that receipt, should be spent to produce a probable gain of many times one per cent."*

A SINGULARITY INDEED.

A manual labor school has been established at Jerusalem, by John Meshullam, a converted Jew, son of a wealthy Jew of London. Messrs. Allen, of New York city, have recently forwarded an assortment of agricultural implements, for the use of the institution.

Mr. Meshullam has leased a few acres adjoining the pool of Solomon, ten miles from Jerusalem, where he has commenced the European system of cultivation. He has grown Indian corn and potatoes. The latter he tried as an experiment, yet he had, besides a home supply, \$250 worth.

By a late decree of the Sultan, the ownership of the Moslem domains is thrown open to all nations. It is reported that a band of our countrymen is already organized, and will sail for the Holy Land the present season, and will carry with them, not the engines of war, but the arts and implements of peace. C.B.

GROSSE ILE.

We observe that a new Post Office has been established at Grosse Ile, Wayne County, Rev. Charles Fox, Postmaster. This Island, one of the most beautiful spots on the eastern coast of Michigan, is rapidly increasing in prosperity and population. A handsome Episcopal Church was finished last Fall; a new district school house is now erecting, which, with the private Seminary of Rev. Mr. Hunter, will afford good advantages for education.

By the late census, there are 116 children of a proper age to attend school. We understand likewise, that our former citizen, Frank Hunt Esq., has received an appointment as Custom House officer on the Island.

Considering how near it is to Detroit, and the great facilities offered for traveling, by the steam-

boats touching there daily, we know of no place in the West, which offers more inducements as a place of residence: and there are few country places where better society is to be met.

It is said that a large boarding house is to be opened in the summer, under the superintendence of Mr. W. Berry, and we are sure that there will be no want of visitors, to enjoy the pure lake air; and escape from the dusty streets of Detroit, for the pleasure of boating, fishing and hunting, which this locality so peculiarly offers.

Parties writing to Grosse Ile, will direct there, instead of to Trenton, as hitherto.

☞ We are informed by a correspondent who says he has been travelling through Clinton Co., that it is an excellent tract of land, mostly timbered; and destitute of marshes and pools of stagnant water.

He says that there is a plenty of Government land, and good opportunities to select a choice farm.

We confidently believe, that if our young men, who are every now and then emigrating to the states and territories west, would look around in our own state, they could do quite as well in the choice of land, and continue to enjoy the advantages of our educational system, light taxes and wholesome laws.

☞ Mr. Isham left on the 15th, and expected to sail from New York on the 20th. We shall doubtless have communications from him, from the other side of the Atlantic, in time for our July number, and perhaps for the June No.

Premiums.—Those competitors who are entitled to books, will please inform us how they will have them sent; and if by mail, whether before or after the new postage law goes into operation. Those preferring the money can have it. C.B.

☞ Mr. J. D. Patterson, of Westfield, Mass., has just imported, from France, another small lot of fine-wooled sheep, of large size, and covered with wool of long staple, from the point of the nose to the hoof.

ANTI-BOOK FARMER CONVERTED.

Letter from a P. M.

Mr. Isham: I asked a friend to subscribe for the Farmer; he replied, "I can farm it well enough without a book." I handed him the wheat essay, and said to him, "read that, and if it does

not convince you, I will give you up." He read it, and says to me, "send for the Farmer, and get the back numbers, from January." H. B.

For the Michigan Farmer.

MIXING WHEAT—BAD FLOUR.

"If the farmer is censured for delivering rye, smut, cockle, &c., is the miller justifiable in mixing that wheat with other farmers clean wheat before grinding, and then giving them both, flour alike."—L. CONE.

Dr. Beck, in his report on the bread stuffs of the United States, says, that the books of one inspector, of the City of New York, show, that in 1847, he inspected 218,679 barrels of sour, and musty flour; and he certifies, that in this amount, he is of the opinion, that there was a loss sustained, of at least \$250,000.

But as no flour that is known to be sour, or bad, is inspected, this statement gives a very imperfect idea, of the loss incurred, even in that city. The whole amount of loss, for the whole United States, arising from chemical changes in bread stuffs, by internal moisture, has been estimated, at from three to five millions of dollars. See Patent Office Report, for 1848, pages 253-4. On page 266, is the result of his analysis of three samples, of Michigan Flour.

First Sample.	Second.	Third.
Water, 14,05	13,20	13,10
Gluten, 10,35	11,85	10,50
Starch, 66,35	65,60	st'ch, dextrine,
Glucose & C. 7,14	8,60 & g. c	76,30
Iron, 45	45	20
99,89	99,70	100,00

On the next page, is the analysis of a sample of Georgia flour; containing 14,36 of nutritive matter, while the best sample of Michigan, shows but 11,85; or that five barrels, of Georgia flour, are worth as much as six of ours.

Having been long accustomed to claim that our wheat was equal to the best in the world, I was not a little surprised, and chagrined, at the result of the analysis, and the question immediately suggested itself; is the analysis correct? and if so, what is the cause of the great difference against us?

I am not able to answer the question to my own entire satisfaction; but it seems probable, that it results in part, at least from the reprehensible practice, alluded to by Mr. Cone; of mixing all sorts of wheat together, before grinding. I know it is a common practice of Millers, in this region, to mix all sorts of wheat together, whether good or bad, red and white, wet and dry, rye, cockle, chess, dirt and all of it goes into the same bin.

In fact, a certain miller in this county, who raised a large crop last season, most of which was grown before cutting, then wet in the stack, so as to be unfit for market, threshed it early, and put it in the mill, where it was mixed with

good wheat, bought of neighboring farmers, and ground up, and branded *Superfine, made from New Wheat*. Yet, he bitterly curses the farmers in mass, for slovenliness, and dishonesty in selling wheat that will not make good flour. If such practices are general among millers, we shall need to look little further to find the cause of the great amount of damaged flour, sold in the Eastern markets, at a heavy loss to both the grower, and consumer.

As any cause that injuriously affects the character of our staple, deteriorating its quality and value, thereby rendering it unsaleable, is a direct blow at the interests of the producing class, affecting not only their pecuniary interest, but equally their reputation, both as men and farmers, it becomes a question of deep interest, to every farmer who values his character as such, and in fact to every citizen who regards the interest and reputation of his state, how the mischief may be prevented, and its authors exposed.

Wheat buyers, seldom make the difference in the price, which there is in the actual value, between pure wheat, in good order, and that which is foul and indifferently cleaned; often making none at all; which is equivalent to a small premium for slovenliness.

I have not time now to write more, but hoping that this may call out some suggestions from yourself or your able correspondents, how to remedy the evils complained of, I subscribe myself in the cause of agricultural reform,

Truly yours. JUNIUS.

The subject, treated of above, demands the especial attention of Farmers. We know of but one remedy. Let the farmers of a Township organize themselves together, send their wheat to the Eastern market, and have the profit themselves, or, have it ground, (which would be far better,) under the superintendence of one of their number, barreled and exported by themselves.

For the Michigan Farmer.

NORTHAMPTON, Saginaw Co. }
March 15th, 1851. }

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir, Enclosed please find two dollars. Send the Farmer to my brother, who lives in Walpole, New Hampshire. I am anxious that he should see how far his favorite journal is thrown in the shade by it. Send back No's from January, that he may not fail of getting the "Essay."

I had some idea of sending you a leaf from my farm book, but friend Brown's article, on page 74, last No. astonished me so much, that I am afraid we should be tho't lazy if I should do so. I should really be obliged to him, if he would let us know how one man and team, can cultivate thirty acres of corn over twice, both ways, making four times over the ground in twelve days. Also, how one man and boy can thresh 2040 bushels corn

in thirteen days. And I would like to have it generally understood, that although his land may be worth what he has estimated it at, (\$50 per acre,) situated where corn can be taken, for two cents per bushel, to a market paying 42 cents per bushel, (62 in his article—evidently a mistake,) there is land in this town, equally as good, from whence it can be taken, for six cents per bushel, to a market paying fifty cents per bushel, which land can be had for \$2.50 per acre, (wild land, of course,) and I will guarantee that, with no better management than friend Brown's has had, it will yield 100 bushels shelled corn per acre.

Very respectfully yours,

R. P. MASON.

For the Michigan Farmer.

ROTATION OF CROPS—SYSTEM.

Mr. Isham:

I have been much interested in reading a few numbers of the Michigan Farmer, especially your essay on wheat growing. It is certainly, so far so good; yet, although it may justly be called the one thing needful, it certainly as some of your correspondents observe, is not all that is needed. System and regularity are the great base of domestic comfort and social happiness. Every farmer ought to have some regular system of managing his farm, a regular rotation of crops. I am glad to see that this is becoming an object of inquiry, through the columns of the Michigan Farmer. What is the best rotation? This is an important question; and because of the very different soils this country contains, the answer must be the work of different pens. Brother farmers, let us hear what you have to say on the subject. In the multiplicity of opinions, we may perhaps arrive at good conclusions. I cast in my mite, being aware that the philosophy of fools, sometimes sets wiser men to thinking.

My farm is of a sandy soil; it will grow wheat, but I do not consider it the best of wheat land. My divisions are five. I put all the manure my farm produces, on my wheat stubble; plant it with corn and potatoes, the next spring, sow my corn and potatoe ground with oats or buckwheat, and clover, with a dressing of plaster; the next spring, plaster my clover again and cut it early; pasture the second crop lightly, in the spring, plaster again, pasture lightly, so as to have a good foliage to plough under early in August; plough deep, turn it well over, and sow it to wheat, as early in September as circumstances will admit. It will be observed, that this routine of crops will produce one crop of wheat, one of corn or potatoes, one of oats or buckwheat and in five years; each field will also lie in clover two years in five, and with vigilance and care the farm may be made to produce manure, to dress each field once in five years.

I consider this system, to be not only conducive to the health of the soil; but it also makes an

economical division of the farm work, which is an important item to the farmer. For instance, clover managed as above described, will generally be ready to cut early in July, so that the hay may be out of the way, before the wheat is ready to harvest. The wheat is harvested before plowing for wheat seeding, thus a farm may be managed by a regular system, and there is no confusion.

Respectfully yours,

A SUBSCRIBER.*

NANKIN, March 15, 1861.

* We hope "Subscriber" will not fail to write often. Plain, common sense, practical remarks are what we want. And in this way we are sure to elicit truth.—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

ON POULTRY.

BY DR. M. FREEMAN.

An acquaintance has written me, requesting the result of my experiments in crossing different breeds of fowls. As he wishes to make up a yard, of not only the most approved kinds, but of such as are most likely to produce a uniformity of plumage. I now, propose to carry out a previously expressed intention, by answering the enquiries through your widely circulating paper, that others as well as himself, (who is a subscriber to the Mich. Farmer,) may have some guide, to aid them in their selections.

The cross with the Malays and Kent Co. fowls, I have described heretofore, in the Sept. No. of your paper. The Dorkings and Kent Co. mixed, exceed my expectations, increasing the size above either of the parentages, quite equal in weight to my Malays. Their color, is uniformly a white ground, shaded with buff, or a reddish hue. The cocks are truly gaudy in their variegated plumage.

The Dorking and Black Polands increased the size and hardness of the Polands, retaining the black, glossy plumage, and exchanging the white crown for a small black top, with the extra claw.

The black and white Polands have assimilated the two colors, a black ground, each feather tipped with white, with remarkably large, white crowns.

The white Polands and Dominicos, have uniformly produced a white ground, dotted with blue, in the form of fish scales. The Dorking and Dominico, retain mostly the Dominico colour, with an increase of size; and are hardy, and mature early. My Dorking cock is a dark red, and is greatly admired by all who see him, for his rich plumage, and very noble, stately appearance. He is a strain of the dark or pheasant color. The pullets were of the light red or fawn color, consequently, they have produced a variety of colors and shades.

Among them are two varieties, strongly marked in plumage, which I am so much pleased with, that I did not exhibit them at our late county fair,

fearing I might be induced to part with them; (tho' as before observed, I don't permit a cull or inferior chick to be taken from the yard, but reserve them for the table;) and have been offered by purchasers, double and even treble prices, to be allowed to select a particular one, *which I have invariably refused.*

The first choice, in *size, form, and plumage*, I reserve for my own use, to breed from, (which is the only course to be pursued to propagate any kind of stock with satisfaction,) with an eye to the improvement of one of the varieties of young Dorkings above alluded to, which is of a rich maroon or claret color, with a silvery shade; the mane a glossy black, edged with a bright golden hue. The other variety is an orange color, (quite different from a plain or common yellow,) with their mane feathers distinctly dotted with black; which varieties I shall keep separate, with cocks to match, calculating to establish a uniformity of color in the offspring of each.

My Game and Kent Co. chickens, have both depreciated in size this last year, from breeding in and in, which should not be continued after the second year; still, their laying properties are not diminished, tho' their eggs are smaller than formerly. But judging from the cross made on the Kent Co. hens, (which are half game) I shall cross a light Dorking with the full blood game also, which is highly recommended by a late writer of much experience, and shall be much disappointed if I do not get some fine white, half and half Game and Dorkings.

A neighbor, who is breeding from my improved Malays and Kent Co. fowls, boasts of them as layers, and sold in October his spring chickens, dressed, in market, averaging 50 cents per pair; when at the same time, chickens of common breed, sold only for 25 to 30 cents per pair. My experience the last season, bears me out in all I have said heretofore, of the two last mentioned breeds.

The Dorkings I consider one of the most hardy breeds, mature early, and valuable both for the table and eggs. The spring pullets, commenced laying in October, tho' not regularly until about the first of December. I speak confidently, when I say my two pullets, the last season, laid over two hundred eggs, each hatched a litter of chickens, and proved themselves very fortunate nurses. Their disposition is very quiet, and when at large, less inclined to roam, and scratch, than any of my other breeds.

The Kent Co., the Dorkings and the Kent Co. cross, and the game pullets, hatched in May, commenced laying about the first of January, from which time my family have been, not only abundantly supplied with eggs, but have sold several dozens.

My fowls during the winter season, run at large, and all fare alike, with no extra care, but as I can discover, the other crosses named, have as yet, laid but very few eggs.

I intended to give a list of my yards this season, made up from those breeds which my experience tells me are the most profitable. Finally, I believe, that one hundred hens of the right kind, will yield, yearly, a larger *nett profit* than the average, throughout this county, of one hundred sheep. But, I find that I have written much more than I expected, and really am becoming quite ashamed of my tedious details, which in future I shall studiously avoid, or consider myself bound to pay a double subscription for monopolizing so much of your paper.

KALAMAZOO, March, 1851.

For the Michigan Farmer.

FENCE POSTS.

Mr. Editor:

In answer to the enquiries of J. C. Allen in the March No. of the present volume, in regard to the best timber for fence posts, I will give my experience.

I have found that Butternut, will in a few years, rot off at the top of the ground. White Oak, by taking off the bark and charring the end as deeply as it should be set in the ground, will last for a number of years, sound and firm in the ground. But I have found, by experience, that Red Elm, will last longer than either of the above named. It should also have the bark taken off.

I have found that posts should be set, in clay land, from two and a half to three feet deep, and then there will not be much fear, but that they will stand firm, and hold their position through frost, and sunshine and wind.

As for sassafras for posts, I can say nothing, never having been acquainted with the timber for that use.


As for the Farmer, we hail with joy its monthly visits, and intend to profit thereby, and do all we can to sustain and extend its influence. We do not wish to excite the vanity of the Editor, when we say, we think it ably conducted.

WALTER WHITE.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE PRIZE WHEAT ESSAY.

One of the most intelligent wheat growers in Michigan, writes as follows, to the Editor:

"Your Supplement is an excellent continuation of your prize essay: it is better, if possible, than the first part. Give us still another boost. You struck a rich vein when you took up the subject of wheat culture in Michigan. It was what we wanted, that is, to know how to raise wheat and preserve fertility."

 We notice that the Genesee Co. Ag. Society will hold its annual fair on the 1st and 2d days of October next. Liberal premiums are awarded to competitors. It is truly surprising, that some counties in our State, possessing decidedly superior natural and circumstantial advantages, should be so far behind their neighbors.

Horticultural.

CULTURE OF FRUIT.

THE QUINCE.

This fruit is valuable only for preserves, jellies, and for giving flavor to other fruit. For these purposes it is admirable. The tree rarely exceeds ten or twelve feet in height, being irregular and dwarfish.

The quince is propagated by cuttings and layers.

The cuttings should be placed upright in the ground, and kept moist. A shaded place is best, but the ground may be covered with some substance to retain the moisture, and they will succeed in any place. The cuttings are to be taken from the tree in spring, and immediately buried, near at hand, where it will be convenient to water them should it be necessary. They should be placed a foot or more in the earth, leaving but a small portion above ground.

Layers should be put down early in spring. A small portion only, of the end of the branch should be left exposed, and a flat stone placed upon the covered part, will keep it in its place and prevent moisture from escaping.

After the buds have well started, those which give promise of becoming vigorous shoots should be selected, and the others cast away. Some of them will have taken root by autumn, and may be separated from the parent tree, and placed in a row by themselves. Those that have not taken root, may be permitted to remain another year, when they may also be taken and placed with the others. In two or three years they will be large enough for standards. They should be kept straight by stakes.

The soil for the quince needs to be rich and deep. Poor soil, and shallow cultivation, will give light and poor crops.

Stable manure and muck, well intermixed and decomposed, is said to be an excellent manure for quinces.

An application of cheap salt, spread over the ground as far as the roots extend, early in spring, should never be omitted, if fair and large fruit is desired.

The trees, in a quince orchard, need to be set about ten or twelve feet apart. After being set, much care is necessary to keep them straight, and give them a well-balanced top; after this, they require but little attention, pruning being seldom necessary.

The enemies of the quince, are the *blight* and the *borer*.

The blight kills the ends of the branches, and sometimes spreads, destroying the whole tree.—The only remedy is cutting and burning the affected parts as soon as discovered.

The borer makes his attack upon the tree, at the surface of the ground, making a small incision through the bark, and penetrating the wood

inwards, and generally upwards, several inches. It sometimes works downwards. The only remedy is a close examination, with a sharp knife; cutting the bark lengthwise, and tracing the destroyer by his track. Frequent examinations are necessary, as long as a sign of the animal can be seen.

Keeping the ground about the trees perfectly clean, and an occasional application of wood ashes, are a good preventive against the attacks of the borer. C. B.

ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

It gives us great pleasure to answer, as far as we are able, any inquiries that may be made through the columns of the Farmer, in reference to horticultural matters:

Susan's garden will, we infer, need a good supply of fertilizing substances. We would apply *now*, supposing no previous preparation to have been made, a liberal coating of thoroughly decomposed stable manure, well mixed with a large quantity of wood ashes, leached or unleached, road scrapings, &c., and intermingled in the most thorough manner, with the earth, to the depth of 8 or 10 inches. The ashes will render the soil more tenacious.

A compost for such a garden soil, but which cannot be prepared now, might be made by mixing together one part yard manure, two parts swamp muck—(that from elm swamps is preferable, as it will decompose sooner and better than that from bogs and marshes; however, the latter is good)—a good proportion of wood ashes, and a small quantity of plaster, (gypsum,) well mixed by turning several times. This should be well mixed with the soil.

The swampy strip on one side might be drained, and then it would make a fine cranberry bed.

For cucumbers, melons and cabbages the soil needs to be rich; tomatoes require a good soil, but not too rich, as they will grow too much to vines; beans and peas do better without manure. On Susan's garden, a small quantity of ashes, we think, would be useful for beans and peas. We are not much acquainted with the different kinds of the articles mentioned; we have used the medium sized red tomato for cooking, and prefer it to all other kinds. The small plum tomato is used for preserving. The speckled cranberry is an excellent garden bean, but it is not the earliest. The Prince Albert is the earliest and best garden pea of its season, and the Early York and Drum Head cabbages are considered as good as any.

We will furnish an article on Grapes and their culture in our next No. It is too late to commence their cultivation this year, unless roots can be obtained. If they can, they should be carefully set in rich—very rich, deep, moist soil, and the roots protected from the sun the first summer, and well watered if a drouth occurs.

Peach trees should be pruned to a single stalk

and not be permitted to branch out lower than 4 or 5 feet from the ground. They should then be pruned every year in March, until a well balanced top is given, which should be kept so well thinned out, that there never will be danger of the branches breaking with too great a burden of fruit.

As to Currant bushes, we would not permit them to branch nearer than one foot or 18 inches from the ground; and then they should be kept pruned so that the sun and air can have free access to every part. Bushes planted in different parts of the garden and trained to single standards, to the height of 5 or 6 feet, and then left to branch out, present a most beautiful appearance when bending with ripe, juicy fruit.

We hope "Susan" will give us a monthly account of her progress.

Bark Lice.—As we are much crowded with communications for our May No., we here give the substance of several articles in reply to the inquiry of Mr. Taylor, which chimes with our experience:

First, Give the trees a good scraping with a piece of iron adapted to the purpose, (we have used a new drawing-knife, that had not yet been ground,) and wash well with strong ley or soap suds. Two or three washings may be necessary. Begin early. Trees that have always had plenty of manure, deep and thorough culture, proper pruning, washing, &c., will rarely be infested with this insect.

C. B.

For the Michigan Farmer.

YELLOW S.

Could Rolynebeck favor his readers with an article on the "Yellows," as affecting the Peach tree, by which information as to the cause or cure, would be communicated, he would lay the Peach raisers under great obligations to him.*

But his method of obtaining Pears by grafting on to Apples—judging by my own oft repeated experiments, and the published experiments of others, would seldom be successful, and then the trouble is, they don't stay successful long—they die soon, very soon.†

A UNIT.

* Nothing more than what was given on page 185 of the last Volume. The cause of the Yellows is not known. It is very contagious, being communicated by mere contact of branches or roots. The knife used in budding a diseased tree, will convey the infection, if used on a healthy tree soon afterwards. Good cultivation, and a yearly excision of a small portion of the old branches, on old trees, and washing in strong ley, will be found a good course to guard against this disease.

† So we stated in the article referred to. We recommended the plan merely to afford a supply while pear trees were coming into bearing.

For the Michigan Farmer.

DEEP AND SHALLOW PLOWING.

Mr. Isham:

In the January number of the Farmer, a correspondent inquires, "what possible good it will do to plow on sandy lands, to the depth of 12 or 18 inches?" He says he has "raised carrots on this sandy land, that penetrated to the depth of two feet, when the ground was plowed no more than 6 or 7 inches, and the sand appeared just as soft, &c., as through the furrow."

Now I presume no one disputes this, but does it follow that his carrots would not have been better, if they had found a suitable nourishment at the depth of two feet? The mere loosening the soil of sandy land, such as your correspondent describes, might not materially benefit a crop, but if the surface soil, with a sod, even without manure, were turned under, and the subsoil brought up, my experience shows, that the crop of carrots, (or anything else that penetrates the earth to the depth plowed,) would be materially benefitted.

Moreover, sandy land, plowed to the depth of only 5, 6, or 7 inches, lasts but a short time; ten years will about use it up. But if it is plowed to the depth of 12 or 18 inches, its beneficial effects will be felt for ten or twelve years—at least three times as long as when plowed in the ordinary way.

I apprehend that manure finds its way into the soil but little, if any deeper, than the cultivator plows it; it is inclined to pass off with the surface water, and is lost, in a measure. If it is placed deep in the soil, more of it must be retained, and for a much greater length of time. Besides it induces the roots of plants to penetrate deeper, and they find a supply of food, as well as moisture, which will carry them through a drouth with comparatively little injury.

Your correspondent says he has raised luxuriant vines and clover upon yellow sand, thrown out from six feet below the surface. Is he sure that the roots of his vines and clover did not receive any other nourishment than the yellow sand? Now, if this sand were thrown out upon a sod, to the depth of 12, 18, or 24 inches, it would amount to about the same thing as turning the sod under to the same depth. The roots of many plants penetrate to the depth of several feet. Strawberries have been known to penetrate 6 to 8 feet, in a part of a garden filled up to that depth, (very likely with yellow sand,) and to have produced such enormous berries, and in such quantities, as to betoken a new and distinct variety, and to be sold, in consequence, as such, at an exorbitant price.

Now this very circumstance, which your correspondent offers to prove the fallacy of deep plowing sandy land, goes to prove, very strongly, its utility. I say, therefore, let your correspondent try a patch of carrots on the same kind of soil, with the same amount of manure, turning

the surface soil and manure 18 inches deep, by the side of his shallow plowing; and if the result does not "pay up" the first season, to say nothing of after culture, he may say I know but little about tilling the soil; and hereafter he need not trust me.

In haste yours,
Detroit, Feb. '51.

For the Michigan Farmer.

PLASTER IN A DROUTH.

Mr. Editor:

Sir: I have the assurance to address you, though I have been but a short time a resident of this State, and am not, at present, engaged in agricultural pursuits. Having spent the best portion of my life on a farm, I, of course, feel an interest in any thing that concerns agriculture, considering it, as I do, of paramount importance to any other branch of industry: all others being directly or indirectly dependent upon it.

A friend has handed me a copy of the Michigan Farmer, for January, 1851, in which I notice an article on "THE EFFECT OF PLASTER IN A DROUTH," which, you say, is at variance with the philosophy of many scientific men, &c.; and observe, that what we want is light.* Now, being willing to contribute my mite, toward the enlightenment of the subject, I have to say, that my experience, which has not been small, goes to confirm the observation of the writer, namely, that we receive the most benefit from plaster in a dry season—that is, there is more perceptible difference, between a plastered, and an unplastered piece of grass, or corn, in a dry season, than in a wet one.

My experiments, have, however, been mostly confined to a deep loam soil, and in another State, and in a different climate from Michigan. I have not now the time to give the details, did I know they would be acceptable. The great mass of the farmers, in the region to which I refer, would agree with the acquaintances of the writer of the article under consideration, if he has correctly stated their opinions.

To the above, I will add a few comments, on other pieces, while this scribbling fit lasts, and then have done.

"Plow Jogger's" theory of the spontaneous production of noxious weeds, &c., is no new idea, but wants the first link in the chain that's to prove it true. It was, however, long ago doubly exploded, and, if he would revive it, let him first produce a specimen that he can clearly and unequivocally demonstrate was that produced and originated not in any other way. Probably he will be somewhat aged when he is able to give us the result of the successful experiment.

"C's" observation, that "Prudence and Economy ought to have precedence of all other accomplishments," &c., is well: but why attempt to make a target of an amiable and affectionate family? and in the public journals of the day at-

tempt to cast opprobrium on their fair fame?—Why go beyond the portals of the grave and attempt to villify the dead? And all, too, without object or benefit. More apt illustrations could elsewhere be found.

"The Delinquents"—well, it seems there are defaulters here as well as elsewhere. What a shame! Men, send along your dues, and enjoy yourselves, as you surely will then. Try the experiment, and see.

Yours, &c.,

A UNIT.

* It is not only contrary to philosophy, but to fact, that plaster attracts moisture, its affinity for moisture not being a tenth part as great as that of ordinary soil. Of this any one can satisfy himself by exposing it, in a dry state, to a moist atmosphere, and noting its increase of weight, in comparison with that of common soil. Whatever may be the cause of its good effect in a drouth, it is not its attraction of moisture.—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

CORN CULTURE.

Friend Isham:

Seeing my first attempt was worthy of your notice, I have made a second trial.

As the time will soon arrive for planting corn, I will make a few remarks on the culture of that crop; and first, in regard to the selection and preparation of seed. I generally select my seed before harvest, procuring it from stalks that have two ears on, and those that get ripe first, and carefully lay it by for the next season. I think it is better than to take it from the crib. My next process is to shell about one inch of the tip, and the same from the but of the ear, that I may get the kernels nearly of a size. Some may think this a whim; please try it for two or more years. Before planting, I prepare a solution of copperas, say three pounds to each bushel, adding a quantity of salt. Let the corn stand in this solution ten or twelve hours previous to planting; then drain off the water. To every bushel of corn then add two or three quarts of soap, mix it well and add as much plaster as will adhere to the corn. I do not put this down as a preservative against the grey worm, but think it checks them some, as I have not been troubled with them as some have; perhaps this is not the only cause.—My land is a sandy loam, stocked with clover. I commence to plow sooner or later, according to the quantity I have to plant, so as to plant about the 15th of May. I have used the Livingston County plow, improved by A. Smith, with a wheel and cutter; it turns about 12 inches wide; and 6 or 8 inches deep. I endeavor to turn the furrows flat, so as not to make any balks. My next process is to pass over with a roller, so as to press the furrows snugly down. Sometimes it is necessary to pass over with a harrow; but as a general thing I do not, unless there is considerable rain after I commence plowing. My next pro-

cess is to mark out the land both ways, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart.

As soon as the corn is large enough to follow the rows, I plaster it, and commence with the cultivator, and pass through it each way. I use neither plow nor hoe. I generally pass through with the cultivator three times during the summer, before it tassels, and also plaster. Now, as to the yield: I cannot tell as large a corn story as some do, without a little India Rubber, but merely say 100 bushels of ears, or 50 of shelled corn, per acre.

WOLVERINE.

For the Michigan Farmer.

MANURING.

Mr. Editor:

I would say a few words in relation to manures, endeavoring to confine myself to such remarks as are likely to be of practical value to our own farmers. I shall consequently make no reference to guano and bone dust, and such fertilizers as are the result of chemical skill, added to labor, such as can hardly be expected in a country so new, with a soil so fertile as ours.

It has been ascertained from experiments, that if a given quantity of land, sown without manure, will produce six times the quantity of seed sown, the same land will produce ten times the quantity if well manured with decayed vegetable matter, fifteen times, manured with cow dung, twenty times, with horse dung, twenty-five times with sheep dung, and thirty times, when such highly concentrated fertilizers as right soil, guano, &c., are used.*

This gives us some idea of the value of these different manures. My chief object is to call attention to the products of our stables and barnyards, and I shall endeavor to make my suggestions accordingly.

There have been great differences of opinion as to the expediency of using dung in a fresh state, or when fully rotten. In this case, as usual, the truth is probably between the extremes.—Fresh dung certainly goes much further, but there is, in this case, more or less inconvenience from the seeds of noxious weeds and plants. On the other hand, when dung is allowed to become fully rotted, much of its value is lost in the process. When moderately rotted, then, it would seem to be in the best condition for profitable use. Something may be said as to the best method of permitting the process of putrefaction to be carried on. Horse dung is usually thrown from the stable, and left in heaps, where it soon becomes heated to such a degree as to be charred almost white. In this condition, it is worth but little, having lost from one-half to three-fourths of its value. Consequently, the prudent farmer will never allow large accumulations of manure in such circumstances. Proper spreading and mixing, with a due degree of moisture, then, would seem to be indicated.

Again, the drainings of manure are the most

valuable portion of it, and loss from this source should be guarded against.

The value of dung is regulated by the quality of the animal's food. Corn fed horses or cattle produce manure much more valuable than those fed on coarse feed, such as hay or straw.

Care should be taken to return to the land, as far as possible, the materials drawn from it by process of cultivation. Land devoted to wheat, should have the straw, chaff, &c., returned to it, as far as practicable. So of other crops.

I. D.

* An explanation is necessary here. When it is said, that the produce of a field manured with cattle dung, will be a third more than the same would have produced, manured with decayed vegetation, it is to be considered, that, in the latter case, the land only gets what grows on it, whereas a good coating of stable manure was the product of two or three times that amount of vegetation consumed as food. And it is further to be noted, that, even with this qualification, there is one crop, which is an exception, viz.: wheat.

We should like to hear from I. D. frequently —Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

THICK AND THIN SOWING.

Mr. Editor:

Looking over the pages of the last number of the Farmer, I discovered an article headed "Thick Sowing," taken from the Boston Cultivator, confirmatory of an article upon that subject, in a previous number of the Farmer. I admit that some soils naturally or artificially strong, well supplied with those elements necessary for the full development of the crop, in all its stages, will bear seeding thicker than light poor soils.* But that the practice of sowing two or three bushels of wheat to the acre is profitable, is contrary to my experience and the testimony of men better qualified to decide upon the merits or demerits of the system than I consider myself to be. But for the experiment. In 1834 I cleared and sowed a field of wheat, joining a piece cleared by a neighbor, no fence between. He requested me to sow his, which I did, and as seed was an object with me, I sowed as near one bushel to the acre as I could, rather less if anything. I seeded my neighbor's the same as mine; but he was so dissatisfied that he seeded it over; but at harvest, there was no perceptible difference; my part of the field yielded quite as much as the other. I had rising of 33 bushels per acre. So much for my experience. Now for the testimony in the Patent Office Report for 1845, page 175. I find in an article on the culture of wheat, by General Harmon, a statement with regard to the quantity necessary to seed an acre, to be from one bushel to one and a peck, according to the time of sowing and condition of the soil.

The next is from the same report, page 346. It is the practice of an English agriculturist, who made it a standing rule to seed three pecks to the acre. This, he argues, (pretty conclusively to my mind,) is fully sufficient for all practical purposes.

I will not multiply testimonials further, lest I should be deemed too troublesome, but would recommend the advocates of thick seeding to read the article from the last part of which this is taken. For my part, I consider thick seeding as pernicious in its results as an attempt to keep ten or twelve head of cattle upon a field that will not supply food for more than three or four, would be.

* The reverse of this is generally understood to be the fact among practical farmers, and the reason is, that stools of wheat tiller out, (spread) about in proportion to the strength of the soil, and *vice versa*. Hence, the stronger the soil, the less the quantity of seed required.—Ed.

† This only confirms the above remarks, as both of these statements have reference to land in a high state of cultivation.—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

CULTURE OF POTATOES.

LA PORTE, Ind., March 22d, 1851.

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir, The next month, will be the time for planting potatoes. I thought I would give you my experience in raising that most valuable of all vegetables, and will at the same time, answer the enquiry of your correspondent, W. E. Sawyer, of Calhoun Co.

I am very particular as to the quality of soil, on which to plant potatoes. Ours is a rich prairie, and we do not like to have it manured, for the reason that we are more troubled with the rot, on highly manured land. The method I have pursued heretofore, has been, to plow my ground, and drop, in every second or third furrow, according to the size of the furrow, so that when the ground is plowed, the potatoes are planted. I then take from my Barn yard, or straw pile, straw or long manure enough to cover the ground four or five inches, and the work is done until the time to dig.

We then set fire to the straw, burning up every thing on the surface; potato tops, weeds and all; giving the boys a fair chance to dig the potatoes. I have raised the largest crops this way I ever have raised, and with the least trouble and expense.

We are never troubled with the drouth injuring the potato crop. When covered in this way, we consider ourselves sure of a crop, unless the rot attacks them.

Last season, I planted potatoes in a young orchard. I did not cover them with straw, and the consequence was, I had but few potatoes. Another advantage in covering with straw, is, we

are not much troubled with weeds, and the ground is left fit for any thing you wish to cultivate the ensuing season.

Wheat has been heretofore our great staple; but of late our farmers are turning their attention to the cultivation of corn, and if we continue to get the prices we have had for corn, I think there will be still more raised. We have farmers in our county who count their corn by the thousands; say from one to nine thousand bushels, and have no renters either, but superintend it themselves.

We have corn shellers, that will shell one thousand bushels, or more, in a day, if we can raise hands enough to handle them.

Yours truly,

B. M. N.

For the Michigan Farmer.

ALBION, Calhoun Co., Mich., }
March 26th, 1851. }

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir, In your April number, containing my communication, relative to growing early potatoes, you make me say, select your largest and *smallest* potatoes, which should have been, select your largest and *soundest* potatoes. Please rectify it in your next.

I notice an enquiry by Wm. Taylor, of Schoolcraft, respecting lice on apple trees. Mine are affected in the same way, and I should be pleased to have the inquiry answered.

Our wheat in this section looks very promising. We shall have few or no peaches.

It is my intention to go up to Lake Superior again this spring, and if you have any fear that during your absence your correspondents might flag, I do not know but I might get up a series of letters, descriptive of the scenery and country, its business, and agricultural prospects, and facilities, &c., which might possibly contain interest enough to entitle them to a place in your very valuable journal.*

Respectfully, Yours, &c., GEO. K. SMITH.

* Should be glad to have you.—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

MY WAY OF BRINGING UNDER CULTIVATION, A TIMBERED OPENING FARM.

Mr. Editor:

I first cut timber enough to fence the lot I wish to improve; then girdle the rest afterward, cut all the old logs and underbrush, and burn them up. Then break up the ground, and drag and sow to wheat at the usual time.

When the first crop comes off, turn the ground over again, drag and sow as before. Be sure that you sow nothing but wheat, and you will raise as clean wheat the second crop, as at first. The following spring seed to clover and timothy, let it lay three or four years, as you please, and clear at your convenience.

Pick up all the stones; put in the plow ten

inches deep, with team enough; take out every grub your plow does not, as they will cut easy ten inches below the surface.

Proceed in like manner, forming field after field, until you have got to the extent you wish to clear.

The advantages of this mode, are: First, a plenty of timber for a term of years. Second, a quick return for a moderate outlay. Third, two crops instead of one. Fourth, abundance of feed for a large flock of sheep and cattle, while your land is growing rich. Fifth, a tremendous crop of wheat when you break up the last time, and your fields as near perfect as you can get them with so little expense. In fact, more profit, with the same expense, than any other mode with which I am acquainted.

I have practised the foregoing, with the best results, having never raise a foul crop of wheat. I sow wheat, and *that* which is *clean*, of the flint variety.

There is a prejudice against sowing wheat after wheat. I disapprove of it, except in the above case, which I have practised with profit, and deem it safe.

W. A. BUCKLAND.

For the Michigan Farmer.

A CHAPTER OF PROVERBS

FOR YOUNG FARMERS.

Hear, my son, the instruction of Shiawassee thy father, and listen to know understanding, for I give unto you good doctrine; forsake not my law.

When thou buyest thyself a farm, select thou a good, suitable location, and firmly resolve never to leave it, for it has been said, that rolling stones gather no moss.

Let not thy hands be indolent to get everything comfortable, and convenient around thee, for this is necessary to thy enjoyment.

And when thou hast obtained thee a farm, then take to thyself a wife, and remember, when thou goest a courting, that sense and brains are to be preferred to ribbons and rouge, and industrious, economical habits, and a knowledge of housewifery, to many hundreds of dollars.

And when thou endeavorest to plow, don't fasten a single pair of *drawing plasters* to thy plow-beam, but do as Isham of the Farmer, recommends, in the Essay on Wheat growing, so shalt thou reap a great crop, and thy soul shall be glad. Yea, thou shalt reap thirty and forty fold of wheat, and an hundred fold of corn.

My son, when thou droppest the seed in the ground, leave it not to struggle unassisted, amid weeds and thorns, but use the hoe and cultivator freely, otherwise weeds and "nubbins" shall reward thy pains, and "small garden sass" thy expectations.

When thou hast come to the land that is thine own, do not neglect, on any account, to get some fruit trees, of the best variety if possible, and when thou plantest them, and when thou prunest

them, and when thou manurest them, and diggest around, do it not as do the ignorant and the slothful, but work with a thorough hand, and sound discretion, according to what is written in the Michigan Farmer; then shalt thou have cherries and plums in abundance, and apples and peaches by the quantity.

My son, remember that the merciful man regardeth the life of his beast, therefore make handsome provision for thy stock, both food and shelter. Keep the best thou canst get, and keep no more than thou canst keep well. This surely is the right way, that leadeth to profitable stock-keeping.

Adopt a system in all that thou doest, and especially a system of rotation in cropping, for this tends to increase thy profits, and decrease the exhaustion of fertilizing elements in thy soil.

Be prompt, my son, in the performance of what thy hands find to do, and bear in mind, in all thy concerns, that "a stitch in time sometimes saves nine."

Hear, O ye children, my instruction, and attend to know understanding. Get agricultural wisdom and understanding; forget it not, for happy is the farmer that findeth true agricultural science, and abideth by its teachings; his barns shall be filled with plenty, and the recompense of his hands shall be given unto him.

Neglect not, my son, to take friend Isham's Farmer, upon any consideration, for it abounds in practical wisdom, adapted precisely to thy wants. And forget not to give us the benefit of thy experience and observation, through its columns, for it is in a multitude of counsels, that we expect to find wisdom.

SHIAWASSEE.

For the Michigan Farmer.

FROM A FARMER OF THE OLD SCHOOL.

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir, I sent you one dollar for the Michigan Farmer, a work which no farmer ought to be without. I cannot sufficiently express the pleasure which I felt, when I read your prize essay, which in my humble opinion, is the very best article on the subject, that I ever read; your arguments being backed, in every instance by proof positive from practical and successful farmers. It will, I hope, be the means of convincing us farmers of the old school, of the propriety of following the good advice and examples of those of the new, which will be far more profitable, as attended with less labor, and better crops, and there will be no occasion for that outcry, which has become fashionable, against raising wheat, by those who have not hitherto taken any pains to get the necessary information how to manage in the best manner.

Yours Respectfully, JOHN MILNE.

Portland, Ionia Co., March 20th, 1851.

Several interesting communications, which we had intended to publish in this No., are necessarily deferred, for want of room.

RECEIPTS for the Michigan Farmer, from March 20 to April 23, 1851:

Mich. State Ag. Society, \$5; L. B. Lawrence, 1; L. C. Cone, 3 20; J. Dougall, 14; O. M. Hyde 1; W. R. Noyes 1; R. H. Hall 2; J. Fairbanks 1; T. Palmer 4; E. Walker 2; E. Bailey 1; G. E. Sill, 1; R. Parishby 1; B. W. Phelps, 1; M. S. Hadley 3; G. E. Sill, 1; John Wilne 1; L. Lambert 2; E. Warner 1; M. Eve rett 4; S. K. Burgess 2; W. H. Yattison 1 25; B. F. Castle 75c; J. A. Crawford 2 25; C. Haskins 1; S. Hawkins, 1; N. R. Love 2; B. C. Gwin 4; D. Hingsley 1; F. W. Finfield 4 50; E. Matthews 1; G. B. Southwick 1; J. M. Cothren 1; A. J. Goodrich 1; C. L. Miller 1; R. Curtiss 1 60; A. E. Leate 75c; Gen. J. R. Williams 4; D. S. Osborn 2; E. K. Gilbert 2; W. Adair 2; S. Wheelock 1; C. W. Babcock 75c; J. Fork 2; J. W. Cothren 1; S. P. Gregg 2 50; S. Woodruff 5; M. Smith 2; H. N. Ball 4; J. E. Taylor 1; Dr. P. Klein 2; W. B. Wesson 2; S. Conant 1; C. C. Crowbridge 2; F. Wetmore 2; Hon. E. Throop 3; T. L. Welch 1; R. Ewers 2; M. F. Dickinson 2; I. S. Miller 1; J. Thompson 2; Col. J. Winder 2; S. Barstow 2; E. R. Kearsley 2 50; D. B. Pyne 1 50; O. Cook 1; Dr. Z. Pitcher 3; E. A. Fairfield 1; A. E. Massey 2; W. Vaughn 1; A. W. Maynard 2; J. Beard 4; Mr. Worden 2; Gen. J. E. Swartz 1; J. W. Cothren, 1; J. H. Hanson 1; E. Cook 2; J. Robinson 5; W. Judson 1; J. Scattergood, 1; R. M. Wheaton, 1; G. C. Holmes, 1; O. W. Beedle, 1; C. K. Carpenter 1 60; T. Hawes 2; S. S. Bernard 1 25; Major J. Kearsley 2; Gen. L. Cass 2; F. Moore 2; Mr. Colton 2; J. Ketchum 1; S. Gorton 1; Dr. E. Conklin 2; John Stevenson 1 50; Rev. W. C. Comfort 7; J. Dearing 3; C. W. Beedle 1; S. Chatfield 1; B. V. Barrow, 1; A. C. Bruen, 1; H. Weese, 1; O. H. Lee 5; E. S. Dunham 1; S. B. Porter, 1; S. A. McGeorge 1; J. Stevens 2; C. Severance 1; A. Patchin 1; H. Carpenter 1; B. Peckham 2; J. Wallace 2; J. Mullett 4; E. A. Brush 2; E. Eldred 1; Eagle & Elliott 12; S. Beden 1; P. Delamater 2; G. Gale, agt, 1; I. Hart, 1; J. Turner 1; J. R. Bowers 3; S. Wiles 10 25; A. W. Ingerson 2; J. W. Smith, 1; T. Hall 1; B. Thorn 1; J. D. Beadley 2; W. Z. Bouny 1; A. E. Leete, 1; 75c; J. Stoddard 1; C. Howard, 1; J. W. Whitcomb, 1; A. A. Copeland 4; D. Davis 1; G. C. E. Thompson 1; G. Crocker, 1; J. Hall 1; J. York 1; R. Dougherty 1; J. E. Riley, 1; J. V. Deputy 1; A. M. Sutton 3 75; Hubbard & Davis 1 50; Harvey King 2; W. N. Carpenter 1; A. L. Stevens 1; G. S. Hoppin 1; E. G. Langdon 2; M. B. De Laney 3; E. H. Higley 7; S. W. Cothren 1; J. S. Robinson 2 25; E. Skidmore 4 25; J. Brown 2 25; A. Richards, 1; M. 2 25; D. Conover 2 25; N. R. Grover 2; W. E. Isham 1; H. Mead 1; W. Colyer 2; J. S. Curtiss 1; D. French 1; G. Rogers 2; B. Peckham 4; C. Bradish 1; D. Burrows 15; W. W. Lavery 1; E. Tripp 2; S. Smith 1; H. H. Kelsey 1; R. C. Hoyt, 1; B. D. Sutherland, 1; B. Thorne 1; A. C. Hagen, 1; G. Tenbrook 3; Mr. Woodward 1; C. Hill 1; G. S. Wright, 1; 2; A. Y. Moore 3; J. T. Wilson 10c; T. G. Nesbitt, 1; A. E. Leete, 1; 75c; A. Clark 1; A. Bradner 1; B. C. Buck, 1; E. Mush 1; J. Cole, 1; A. Wilson 2 60; F. V. Smith 1; A. A. Copeland 3; C. Thompson 5; R. Millen, 1; N. Tallmadge 2; F. Danforth 3; J. B. Porter, 1; J. Kenney 1; B. Eldred 1; B. Woodruff 1; T. S. Rogers 1; A. E. Massey, 1; J. Harris 75c; G. Townsend 5; B. Imila 4; W. B. Foote, 1; W. S. Johnson 1; A. J. G. Welsh 1; E. Forbush 1 50.

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DETROIT PRICE CURRENT,

Herd's Grass, bu	200	Salt,	\$1 50
Flax, bu	100	Butter,	01a11
Lime, bbl	75	Eggs, doz	7
Flour, bbl	\$3 62	Hides, lb	8 1/2
Corn, bu	44	Wheat, bu	78
Oats,	30	Hams, lb	8
Rye,	40	Onions, bu	70
Barley,	93	Cranberries,	2 10
Hogs, 100 lbs	-	Buckwheat, 100 lbs	1 25
Apples, bu	-	Indian Meal,	87
Potatoes,	31	Beef,	350a4 00
Hay, ton	10a12 00	Lard, lb retail	9
Wool, lb	18a4C	Honey,	1 00
Peas, bu	100	Apples, dried	2 50
Beans,	100	Peaches, do	5 50
Beef, bbl	7a8 00	Clover Seed, bu	5 50
Pork,	12a14 00	Pine Lumber, clear	\$20 thou.
White Fish,	7 50	Second clear	15 "
Trout,	6 50	Bill Lumber	11 "
Cod Fish, lb,	4	Flooring,	12 "
Cheese,	8 1/2	Common,	10 "
Wood, cord,	1 75a2 25	Lath,	2 "



KELLS' PREMIUM HORSE POWERS And Threshing Machines.

THE New York State Agricultural Society, at their last Fair, awarded to the Horse Powers manufactured by the subscriber at the city of Hudson the

First Premium.

They having been presented for competition by Messrs. Emery & Co. of Albany, who within nine months past have sold over 125 of these Powers.

The attention of Farmers throughout the county is therefore solicited to the Rail Way Horse Powers and Over Shot Threshing Machines with the Vibrating Separators as now manufactured by the subscriber.

Philip H. Kells,

who is the first and original inventor of the present improved mode of constructing these Powers, and who has been constantly engaged in the manufacture and sale of Horse Powers, Threshing Machines, &c., for the last ten years. On this account with his facilities for carrying on the business, and his knowledge of the wants of the Farmers of this country, he is satisfied he does and can execute this kind of work in a manner not to be excelled by any manufacturer in this country.

For the details of my mode of constructing the Rail Way Horse Powers reference may be had to the advertisements and illustrations published by Messrs. Emery & Co. of Albany in the Cultivator since June, 1850, at which time I commenced manufacturing for them.

All persons wishing to purchase Horse Powers or Threshing Machines of the latest and most approved construction are requested to call on, or forward their orders to the subscriber at his manufactory in State street, Hudson, or at Griffith's Long Wharf, Buffalo, N. Y.

Price of Machines.

For Two Horse Machines.....\$145 00
For One.....\$120 00

Machines will be shipped to any part of the United States or the Canadas, and warranted to give satisfaction to the purchaser, or they may be returned within 60 days.

PHILIP H. KELLS.

Detroit Nursery!

THE Proprietor of this well known establishment, grateful for the extensive patronage he has received, will endeavor to merit a continuance of the favors of his customers, by adding to his already choice collection of **Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubby, &c.** all the new, rare, and valuable fruits and plants, as they are brought to notice.

The stock of pear, cherries, and peaches is particularly fine. Many of the cherry and dwarf pear trees are now showing fruit buds. Apple, quince, also currants, raspberries, gooseberries, strawberries, and grapes, of all the choice varieties, can be supplied at as low prices as at any other nursery.

Balsam fir, Norway spruce, Norway pine, red cedar, American arbor vitae, of good size for setting out. These evergreens are all grown from seed, and can be moved with a ball of earth attached, so there will be no danger of their being injured by moving.

The nursery is situated on the Chicago road, one and a quarter miles from the City Hall, Detroit.

Orders by mail or left at the dry goods store of John Palmer & Co., No. 108 Jefferson avenue, or at the nursery, will receive prompt attention. J. C. HOLMES.

Detroit, April, 1851.

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EMERY & CO.'S

N. Y. State Agricultural Society's first premium
RAILROAD HORSE POWER

AND

OVERSHOT THRESHER & SEPARATOR.

The attention of the farming public is solicited to the newly improved Railroad Horse Power, as now made by the subscribers. Also to their Over-Shot Spike Cylinder Threshers, with Vibrating and Revolving Separators.

Having had much experience in the sale and manufacture of Horse Powers and other Agricultural Implements; and being acquainted very extensively with the wants of the farmers of this country, as well as the character of most of the implements and machines now in use, we think we hazard nothing in pronouncing our latest improved Powers far superior to any before made or sold by us, or with which we are acquainted.

At the late Fair of the New York State Agricultural Society, held at Albany, their committee on Horse Powers unanimously awarded us the highest premium for the best Rail Road Horse Power, among the large number of the most popular and approved kinds of the day, which were on exhibition and in competition,—it being considered the most efficient and durable on the ground.

As the principal mechanical parts of its construction differ so materially from those mostly sold by us previously to the past season, as well as from all others now in use, we have thought it an object to the farmers, as well as for our own interest, to illustrate them by cuts and descriptions, as shown in previous numbers of the Farmer. The advantages of the recently adopted improvement are numerous and plainly seen, one of which is removing all the gearing and wearing parts to the outside of the power, where it is free from dust, and dirt, &c., and where it may be boxed up, requiring little time or oil to keep them in the best possible running order.

The liability of breakage and wear, and slipping of links and pinions, as in the rack and pinion powers, (and most others) is wholly removed. In shipping them, the gears are taken off and packed in a box with other things.

Having sold a large number of the IMPROVED Machines the past harvest, all of which, having given entire satisfaction, and when used side by side with the most approved of other kinds, having been preferred, we do not hesitate to recommend and warrant them equal, if not superior, to any before made or sold by us, or of which we have any knowledge.

Our Thresher consists of a small spiked cylinder, about fifteen inches in diameter, and twenty-six inches long, with a substantial spiked concave above this cylinder, which is adjustable to the work to be done. The feeding table being level, allows the feeder to stand erect, and is little annoyed with dust and dirt—and no possibility of hard substances getting into the Thresher, to its injury.

We attach a vibrating or revolving separator to them, which serves to separate all the grain from the straw, and leave it with the fine chaff for fanning mill, while the straw is carried off for stacking.

Having heretofore been obliged to have a large portion of some parts of our work done by contract, we have felt the inconvenience and want of dependence to be placed upon the quality of materials and workmanship; we have now so extended our facilities, as to enable us to make all parts of all our own machines, and can now assure the public that none but the best work and stock will be offered by us.

The Two Horse Power Thresher and Separator is capable, with three or four men, of threshing from 150 to 300 bushels of wheat or rye, and the single one from 60 to 100 bushels, or double that quantity of oats per day.

The price for Emery & Co's One Horse Power, \$85 00
do do Thresher & Separator. 35 00
do Bands, wrench, oiler and extra pieces. 5 00—\$125 00
do Two Horse Power.....110 00
do do Thresher and Separator... 35 00
do Bands, oiler, wrench, &c..... 5 00—\$150 00
Price of Emery's Thresher and Cleaner, with bands, wrenches, &c.....\$75 00
do Saw Mill, complete for use.....\$35 00
Price of Grant's Fan Mills, adapted for hand or Power, from.....\$22 to \$28 00

Also Wheeler's Rack and Pinion Power, manufactured by ourselves, and warranted equal to any of the kind in use, [or made and sold by any other manufacturer,] which will sell with a full guarantee of the right of using same, in any territory of the United States, for the following prices:

One Horse Power.....\$75
Two Horse Power.....100

The Threshers not being patented are same as above quoted. All the above are subject to the warranty of three months use and trial, and if not satisfactory may be returned and full purchase money refunded.

For further particulars see Illustrated Catalogue, furnished gratis on application to EMERY & CO.,

Original and sole Proprietors of the Albany Agricultural Works, Warehouse and Seed Store, No. 369, 371, Broadway, Albany, N. Y. mylt

Rosebank Nurseries, Windsor and Amherstburgh, Canada West.

THE SUBSCRIBER has upwards of 200,000

young FRUIT TREES, in various stages of forwardness comprising all the best varieties of apples, pears, plums, cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, and quinces; a portion of the first four kinds being on dwarf stocks. He has taken great pains in propagating so as to be able to warrant what he sells as true to their names, and in healthy, thrifty condition. He is also particular in having them carefully taken up and packed, so that they will carry to any distance with perfect safety.

He also propagates extensively, for sale, the newest and best varieties of Grape Vines, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Currants, Strawberries and Rhubarb. Together with a large assortment of

Ornamental Trees and Flowering Shrubs,

Comprising a rich variety of roses and tree peonies. Also, an extensive assortment of bulbous flower roots, including a choice collection of named Tulips and Hyacinths, besides Lilies, Narcissus, Jonquils, Irises, Dahlias, &c. &c., together with a general assortment of HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

The whole will be disposed of at very moderate prices, for cash. Orders by mail, addressed to James Dougall, Detroit, or left at the store of Mr. Wm. Clay, Detroit, or at the new nursery at Windsor, will be promptly attended to.

Orders should be sent in March, or as early in April as possible. JAMES DOUGALL.

March 1st, 1851.

apr3m

ONE PRICE ONLY!

1851.] Spring and Summer. [1851.

CLOTHING AT WHOLESALE & RETAIL.

At the well known establishment of the subscribers, corner of Jefferson and Woodward avenues, may be found a very large assortment of Clothing, comprising every quality and description of garments, which for style, durability and economy, cannot be excelled. FARMERS and MECHANICS may here procure substantial and economical garments; and as no deviation in price is practiced, they can rely upon purchasing goods, in all cases, at the lowest possible rates. Under this system the inexperienced can buy as low as the most expert and practiced buyer. Also on hand

BOYS' AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING, in great variety, India rubber and oiled clothing, TRUNKS and CARRY BAGS, under garments, cravats, stocks, &c. &c.

Cloths, cassimeres and vestings, always on hand, and made up to order in the best manner. HALLOCK & RAYMOND
March 9, 1851. aply

EAGLE & ELLIOTT,

DEALERS IN

CLOTHING.

Wholesale and for the Million!

KEEP constantly on hand as large a stock of Ready Made Clothing as may be found west of New York. Being of Philadelphia manufacture, and well suited for this market, they are prepared to sell at low prices, at wholesale or in quantities to suit purchasers. They beg leave to call attention to their

New Cloth Ware Room, second story.

French, Belgian, English, and American Cloths; cassimeres and trimming, serges, satins and vestings, making the best assorted stock of these goods to be found west of Buffalo; for sale wholesale or made to order, at their

Custom Department,

where every satisfaction as to fit, style, &c., is warranted, and at reasonable prices.

EAGLE & ELLIOTT,
61 Woodward Avenue, nearly opposite Presbyterian church,
Detroit. Jan

Attention Soldiers and old Volunteers !!!

EACH of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers, Musicians or Privates, whether Regulars, Volunteers, or Militia, or the widow or minor children of those deceased, who actually served nine months in the war of 1812, or in any Indian wars since 1790, and each of the commissioned officers of the Mexican war, are entitled to 160 acres of land. Those who served four months are entitled to 80 acres. Those who served one month are entitled to 40 acres.

I will procure warrants for such as are entitled, by calling on me or writing to me. Business from a distance promptly attended to. Banking office next door to the Post Office, Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

Letters must be post paid.

G. F. LEWIS, Exchange Broker.
N B. Claims for Pensions, Extra Pay, &c., attended to.

DETROIT SEED STORE

And Agricultural Warehouse!

GARDEN, FIELD, AND FLOWER SEEDS,

IMPORTED Flower Roots, Agricultural Implements and Machines, Starbuck's Troy Plow, Rugles Nourse & Mason's Eagle Plow, and Wisconsin Plow, Grant's fanning mills, Riche's straw-cutters, corn-planter and sub-drill, washing machines, corn shellers, cultivators, thermometer chains, &c. &c.

..ALSO..

Agents for the sale of Wheeler's Patent Improved Portable Rail Road Horse Power and Over-shot Threshers and Separators.

F F PARKER & BROTHER,
myl 81 Woodward Avenue.

T. H. ARMSTRONG,

Manufacturer of and Dealer in

SUPERIOR HATS AND CAPS,

No. 59, Woodward Avenue,

(Between the Presbyterian Church, and Jefferson Avenue,
Sign of Big Hat, Detroit.

ALSO, Dealer in Furs, Robes, Muffs, Umbrellas, Canes, Gloves, Scarf, Cravats, Suspenders, Buckskin Gloves, &c., very cheap for cash.

Would respectfully solicit the patronage of Farmers and others coming into the city, pledging himself to sell as cheap as any other establishment east of New York.

His stock of Hats and Caps are of his own manufacture and warranted the best.

Orders for new style of Hat or Cap promptly attended to.

CHARLES PIQUETTE,



MANUFACTURER OF
SUPERIOR DIAMOND POINTED
GOLD PENS.

DAMAGED PENS RE-POINTED.

Also, damaged Watches and Jewelry, repaired by a superior workman, and the work warranted.
Detroit, August 1, 1850.

Paper Warehouse.

THE undersigned has opened an extensive Paper Warehouse, on Jefferson Avenue, Detroit, for the exclusive sale of all kinds of paper, where a general assortment can be found at all times. The attention of country dealers is respectfully invited, before purchasing elsewhere. Cash paid for rags.

Detroit, Feb. 19, 1851.

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Back Volumes of the Farmer.

A few copies of the 6th, 7th, and 8th volumes of the Mich. Farmer, pamphlet bound and in boards, for sale at our bookstore.

Detroit, Feb. 1st, 1851.

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AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

A Large and increasing variety constantly on hand, at MANUFACTURERS prices, adding transportation, among which are the following:

Starbuck's Premium Plows, 8 sizes,	\$4 to \$18 00
Rugles, Nourse, Mason & Co., do.	3 to 14 00
Emery & Co.,	3 to 14 00
Emery & Co's Improved Railroad Horse Powers and Over-Shot Threshing Machines and Separators, one horse \$145, two horse, \$170.	

Wheeler's do. \$140 to \$165.

Smith's New Improved Ventilating Smt Machine and Buck-wheat Scourer, \$40 to \$200.

Straw Cutters, from \$6 to \$17. Corn Shellers, from \$8 to \$20. Emery's Corn Planter and Seed Drill, \$15. Vetterable cutters, \$13; Folding Harrows, 8 to \$20; corn and wheat cultivators, 5 to \$9; fanning mills; cast iron dirt scrapers, 4 to \$7; grind stones with rollers, 2 to \$10; churns, 1 50 to \$6; agricultural furnaces, 10 to \$30; cheese presses; hydraulic rams, 10 to \$30; wheel-barrows, 4 to \$6; well and cistern pumps, 3 to \$10; wheat drills; bush hooks and scythes, 1 50; Bog hoes, \$2; pruning knives, \$2; pruning saw and chisels, \$2; post spoons, \$1; screw w. ench. 1 50 to \$5; Trucks, &c. &c., 3 to \$10.

Also, hay, straw, and dung forks, potato hooks, hoes, shovels, spades, grain cradles, scythes, rakes, hay knives, chains, plow points, &c. &c.—all for sale cheap for cash.

Jan

D. O. & W. S. PENFIELD,
87 Woodward Avenue.

J. G. DARBY,

ENGRAVER,

No. 151, Corner Jefferson Avenue and Bates Street,
Detroit, (Third Story.)

MAPS, Visiting and Business Cards, Portraits, Bills of Exchange, Wood Cuts, &c.

—ALSO—

Door Plates, Silver Ware, &c., elegantly engraved.
Detroit, January 1st, 1850.

SMITH'S Patent Ventilating Smt Machine—

Also, Mott's Agricultural Furnace, for sale by
D. O. & W. S. PENFIELD.
Detroit, Jan'y 1, 1850.

MICHIGAN BOOKSTORE.

THE SUBSCRIBERS having rented the new and commodious store adjoining the Young Men's Hall, on Jefferson Avenue, are now opening one of the largest stocks of
BOOKS & STATIONERY,

To be found west of New York. Their assortment includes LAW, MEDICAL, THEOLOGICAL, MISCELLANEOUS, CLASSICAL, and SCHOOL BOOKS. All of which are offered to the public, wholesale or retail, at prices much lower than heretofore. They also carry on the Book Binding business, and are prepared to manufacture to order, County and Town Record Books, Merchants' Ledgers, Journals, Day Books and other kinds of Blank Work generally, of the best materials and workmanship. Pamphlets, Magazines, &c. bound with neatness and dispatch. A share of public patronage is respectfully solicited.

Detroit, Jan 1, 1851.

Jan

C. MORSE & SON.

TERMS.—The MICHIGAN FARMER is published monthly, at Detroit, Mich., for one dollar a year, in advance; after three months, \$1.25; after six months, \$1.50; after nine months, \$1.75. No subscription taken for less than one year, nor discontinued till all arrearages are paid.—To clubs, five copies for four dollars, twelve copies for nine dollars, and any greater number at the same rate.

Advertising, for one folio, or one hundred words, first insertion one dollar and fifty cents—twelve dollars per annum.

Office next door to Markham's Book Store, opposite Maj. Kearsley—entrance same as that of the Daily Advertiser.

THE
MICHIGAN FARMER,

A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO

AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE,

Domestic and Rural Economy, Etc.

ILLUSTRATED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

WARREN ISHAM, EDITOR.

Volume VIII, New Series---1850-51.

DETROIT, MICH:

PUBLISHED BY WARREN ISHAM, PROPRIETOR.

DUNCKLEE, WALES & CO. PRINTERS.

1851.

TO POSTMASTERS.

Those Postmasters to whom the present number of the *FARMER* is sent, are respectfully asked to act as agents for it, and take an interest in extending its circulation in their respective neighborhoods, with a special reference to the commencement of our next volume, on the first of July.

A great many of our Postmasters have taken a lively interest and a just pride in the circulation of their own State Agricultural paper, but from others we have as yet heard nothing, and some few, we understand, are still interesting themselves in the circulation of foreign papers, to the neglect of their own, in most cases, doubtless, from not knowing anything of its claims. From such we ask a perusal of this number, imperfect as it is, (on account of so much space being occupied with the title-page and index,) and submit to them, whether it be not a duty which their position imposes upon them, to use their influence in its behalf.

To Our Patrons and Subscribers.

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We return our sincere thanks to all who have taken upon themselves the duty of obtaining subscribers, and humbly ask a continuance of their kind efforts.

We shall do all in our power to make the paper interesting and useful, if we are not obliged to spend our time in collecting outstanding dues.

To our subscribers who are in arrears we would say, if they will pay up immediately, they can do so at the advance price; but if we have to be at the expense of collecting it, we shall exact, in all cases, the forfeiture.

Those writing to us on business should state every particular. We have received several letters of late containing money, the writer merely stating that it is to apply on the subscriptions of those he had sent before. It is impossible for us to tell who to credit, and we are put to the trouble of writing to inquire. State everything, and be particular in writing names.

**New Postage.**—After the new postage law goes into operation, our friends will oblige us very much by paying the postage on their letters: they will have to pay but 3 cents, while we should have to pay 5. Two cents on one thousand letters makes quite a snug postage bill.

**CLUB TERMS.**—Five to twelve copies, at eighty cents each; twelve and upwards, seventy-five cents each; **SINGLE COPIES, ONE DOLLAR.** Old subscribers, who are not in arrears, may be included in the clubs.

**Each and every one of our subscribers is hereby commissioned to act as Agent to procure subscribers.** You need no prospectus—just show a copy of the *Farmer*, which is much better.